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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The year under review was marked by the implementation of Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank, the attainment of an Agreement on Movement and Access which was only partly implemented, ongoing violence claiming innocent lives on both sides, the continuation of a tight closure policy by the Israeli authorities, the incapacitation of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and legislative elections both in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Israeli elections led to the formation of a coalition Government, under the leadership of Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of the Kadima party. The Palestinian elections were won by the Hamas "Change and Reform" list of candidates.

Following the Hamas victory, many donors undertook a review of their assistance policy to the Palestinian Authority, in the context of the principles spelled out by the Middle East Quartet in its statement of 30 January 2006. The Government of Israel also decided to withhold the payment of the taxes and duties collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. The latter is consequently facing an acute fiscal crisis, which risks further exacerbating an already precarious economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Setting aside their previous focus on

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a transition towards medium- and longer-term development planning, United Nations agencies and programmes emphasized emergency assistance as their main priority.

The present report contains a description of efforts made by United Nations agencies, in cooperation with Palestinian and donor counterparts, to support the Palestinian civilian population and institutions.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/126 of 15 December 2005, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The reporting period was from May 2005 to April 2006.

2. Information on the living and socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people is provided in reports prepared by other United Nations agencies, including, (a) the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/60/65-E/2005/13); (b) the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (A/60/13); and (c) the report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and of UNRWA entitled "The Humanitarian Impact of the West Bank Barrier on the Palestinian Community, Special Focus on crossing the Barrier: Palestinian Access to Agricultural Land".

3. Throughout the year, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority continued his efforts to support the peace process and to ensure effective coordination between the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel, as well as to document the economic and social conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

4. The present report provides an overview of the work of the United Nations agencies, in cooperation with Palestinian and donor counterparts, to assist the Palestinian people and institutions, as described in General Assembly resolution 60/126. Also included are observations of the political climate and related challenges as the international community responds to the crisis and works to end the cycle of violence, alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, and move forward towards a resumption of negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

II. Overview of the current situation

Political context

5. The beginning of the reporting period was dominated by preparations for Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip. In May 2005, the Middle East Quartet appointed a Special Envoy for Disengagement to coordinate with the parties and the international community. In June, a United States Security Coordinator was appointed to promote Palestinian security reform, and to ensure coordination between the parties during the withdrawal. In September 2005, Israel concluded its withdrawal of settlers and military personnel from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank. The Secretary-General praised the determination and political courage shown in that regard by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He also congratulated Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for his role in ensuring a peaceful and coordinated withdrawal.

6. On 25 January 2006, the Hamas list of candidates for "Change and Reform" won a majority victory in the Palestinian legislative elections. In its statement on 30 January, the Quartet congratulated the Palestinian people on an electoral process that was free, fair and secure, but stressed that a new Palestinian government should be committed to non-violence, recognition of Israel's right to exist, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the road map. The Security Council subsequently took the same position.[1] Citing a lack of movement by the new Palestinian Authority towards the Quartet's three principles, many donors undertook to review their assistance programmes and to examine alternative channels of funding and the United States and the European Union announced a freeze on their assistance to the Palestinian Authority, while maintaining direct assistance to the Palestinian people.

7. Following the incapacitation of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon on 4 January 2006, Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert temporarily assumed the leadership of the Government, and led Mr. Sharon's new Kadima party into national elections on 28 March. Kadima won 29 seats in the Knesset, and Mr. Olmert was tasked with forming a new Government. The international community continued to monitor developments surrounding Kadima's plan, announced during the electoral campaign, to withdraw further from areas of the West Bank and to define permanent borders over the next four years.

Humanitarian and socio-economic context

8. According to the World Bank, real gross domestic product (GDP) grew for the third consecutive year, by an estimated 6.3 per cent in 2005.[2] GDP per capita remained 33 per cent lower than in 1999, however, indicating pressures of ongoing demographic growth.[2] A climate of economic uncertainty and social hardship continued throughout the year, worsened by recurring violence, ongoing construction of the Barrier, restrictions on movement, land confiscation, house demolitions, arrests and detentions by the Israeli authorities and intensification, from August onwards, of the fiscal crisis. With the election of Hamas, prospects for continued international financial support for the Palestinian Authority lessened, leading to a risk of contraction in the Palestinian economy.

9. An estimated 48 per cent of Palestinians were living below the poverty line at the end of 2005. Unemployment levels reached 23.4 per cent, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Food insecurity continued to affect some 37 per cent of the population,[3] and an increase in stunting levels among children, particularly in rural and refugee families, was detected, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Seventy-six per cent of Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory stated their need for assistance.[4]

10. Important challenges remained after disengagement. While internal closures within Gaza were lifted, external closures remained in place and under Israeli control. An Agreement on Movement and Access was signed on 15 November 2005. It included a provision on the opening of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, implemented 26 December 2005, with technical assistance from the European Union. Since then, the Rafah crossing point has remained operational, with a daily average of 1,315 travellers using the crossing as of the end of March.[5] Other aspects of the Agreement, however, are yet to be implemented.

11. In 2005, the Erez crossing was closed for 54 per cent of the year, or 198 days, and for 75 per cent of the year, if weekend days are included. The Erez industrial zone ceased to operate in September. Previously, the average number of daily workers and traders entering the estate had been 295 and 131, respectively, a decline of 90 per cent compared to pre-intifada figures.

12. Imports from Israel through the main commercial terminal rose by 5 per cent, though exports declined by 30 per cent in 2005 compared with 2004. The Karni crossing was closed 18 per cent of the year in 2005. The sustained closure of the Karni commercial crossing, which occurred for 47 days between 1 January and 31 March 2006, led to an acute shortage of wheat flour stocks, resulting in bread shortages in mid-March. Since 21 March, the Karni crossing has been used for imports, although in a lesser capacity.

13. Exports from Gaza via the Karni crossing failed to meet the target of 150 trucks per day as set out in the Agreement on Access and Movement. The Palestine Economic Development Company, which manages the greenhouses in the former settlement areas, reported total export losses of more than US$ 8.5 million owing to the closures at Karni. More than 600 tons of vegetables were destroyed or donated. Total export losses for both agricultural and non-perishable items were estimated at more than $23 million for the first three months of 2006. As of 27 March, the average monthly number of truckloads in 2006 for imported goods was 2,465, well below the monthly average of 4,561 truckloads for 2005.

14. The Agreement on Access and Movement contained a provision on the easing of internal closures within the West Bank. During 2005 the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with the support of the Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, worked closely with Israeli military officials to determine methods for reducing the number of obstacles to internal movement within the West Bank. As a result of those efforts, the number of obstacles fell from 605 to 396 between May and November 2005. The number of obstacles rose again towards the end of 2005, however, in the wake of two suicide bombings in the Israeli coastal towns of Netanya and Hadera. The number of obstacles imposed on the West Bank reached some 505 by the end of March 2006. Other aspects of the Agreement, including the establishment of a land link between Gaza and the West Bank and the opening of air and sea outlets in Gaza, were not implemented.

Barrier

15. On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice rendered an advisory opinion[6] stating that the construction of the Barrier "constitutes breaches by Israel of several of its obligations under the applicable international humanitarian law and human rights instruments". On 20 July 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/15, in which the Assembly acknowledged the Court's advisory opinion and asked that Israel comply with its legal obligations. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to establish a register of Barrier-related damages.

16. Israel continued the construction of the Barrier. By mid-January 2006, approximately 299 km (44.6 per cent) was completed and a further 124 km (18.5 per cent) was under construction. Some 247 km remains projected. Of the constructed Barrier, 38 km was made up of 9-metre-high concrete slabs and the remainder consisted of a combination of ditches, trenches, roads, razor wire, and electric fences. If all of the Ma'ale Adumim and Ari'el/Emmanuel sections marked as

"subject to the completion of further inter-ministerial examination" are included, then approximately 57,050 hectares or about 10.1 per cent of land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem will lie between the Barrier and the Green Line.

17. The reporting period saw major steps towards the completion of the Barrier around Jerusalem, severely disrupting the movement of Palestinians between the West Bank and East Jerusalem which, as a key commercial hub, accounts for about 30 per cent of the Palestinian economy. Approximately one quarter of East Jerusalem residents will live to the east of the planned Barrier and will need to cross it to access services inside Jerusalem.

III. United Nations response

A. Human and social development

Education

18. The UNRWA Education Programme was its largest yet in terms of budgetary and human resources. For the approximately 254,175 pupils enrolled in 273 UNRWA elementary and preparatory schools, education is free of charge. UNRWA also provided technical, paramedical and commercial training at four vocational training centres for refugee youth. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) achieved progress in improving teaching and learning processes in the classroom as well as increased participation in extra-curricular activities, and quality learning through the use of remedial education. UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) began work on a joint programme on girls' education.

19. UNESCO launched a $15.1 million project supporting an equitable and efficient funding mechanism for Palestinian higher education aimed at providing scholarships to some 20,000 Palestinian students and direct grants to universities. Several new capacity-building activities for non-formal education and in line with the United Nations Literacy Decade were implemented focusing on vulnerable groups, such as women, children with special needs and illiterate adults and with emphasis on early childhood care and education for preschool educational planning. Within the framework of the Education for All initiative, UNESCO continued to provide advice to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education towards the finalization of its new five-year development plan. A feasibility study on the production of textbooks and curricula was also completed. Technical assistance towards the development of a national teacher education strategy as well as in the field of technical and vocational education and training was provided, resulting into the strategic review of the Implementation Plan of the technical and vocational education and training National Strategy.

20. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed to the Education for All initiative through the construction and rehabilitation of 26 schools, provision of computers and educational materials for 120 schools, and teacher training. It developed the Palestinian Education Initiative with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the World Economic Forum, and provided training to teachers to improve the current quality of education. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) supported a pilot initiative in Palestinian

schools to raise awareness of the issues of sexual assault and rape and developed a sex education curriculum to be incorporated into schools. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education towards implementing the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) successfully integrated reproductive and sex education into the home economics (for girls) and environmental education (for boys) curriculum for grades 9 and 10.

Health

21. During the reporting period, UNRWA continued to operate 54 facilities providing comprehensive primary health care at a cost of $22 million, and to implement its Environmental Health Programme to reduce morbidity and the risks of disease outbreak within refugee camps. The World Health Organization (WHO) invested a total of $2.5 million in technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in key health areas such as mental health, nutrition, food safety and communicable diseases. WHO continued to lead the coordination and information-sharing system and facilitated effective communication between Palestinian and Israeli health professionals and institutions. With development investments of approximately $1.1 million, UNFPA focused on improving the accessibility of 41 primary health-care facilities offering reproductive health services, and 11 comprehensive care facilities in the most populated and underprivileged areas.

22. UNICEF focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal of reducing child mortality. UNICEF programming included capacity-building of health-care providers, and providing all the vaccines and vaccine-related supplies for immunization services at the 413 clinics run by the Palestinian Authority and 53 centres administered by UNRWA. In addition, UNICEF provided essential drugs and facilitated the upgrading of cold chain equipment required for immunization. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to focus on the prevention of drug abuse in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Experts from Gaza and the West Bank attended a workshop sponsored by the Office on Drugs and Crime and UNAIDS, on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users. UNIFEM initiated a national study on gender and HIV/AIDS as part of a larger regional initiative to identify and develop advocacy and communication strategies. UNIFEM also developed a code of ethics regarding domestic violence to be adopted by health-care workers.

23. In 2006, the region was struck by an outbreak of avian flu. Several agencies cooperated to assist the Palestinian Authority in responding to the crisis and raising public awareness, including the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNRWA and the World Bank. WHO trained key lab technicians and provided reagents. UNICEF trained primary and secondary teachers in all districts and health managers in 15 districts. The regional dimension of the crisis also meant close collaboration between the Palestinian and Israeli Health and Agriculture ministries.

Multisector development support

24. The World Bank balanced ongoing emergency efforts with a continued focus on a medium-term development agenda. It monitored and analysed emerging socio-economic developments and donor interventions and advised the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations and the donor community on economic development priorities and strategies. The Bank's ongoing portfolio consisted of 12 projects valued at $154 million. Under its regular programme, UNDP provided some $5.8 million in infrastructure support across a wide range of social sectors. The overall ongoing portfolio of UNDP consisted of several programmes valued at $110 million with disbursements of over $61 million during the reporting period. UNDP provided technical advice on the preparation of the Palestinian Medium-Term Development Plan. ESCWA also supported the preparation of the Plan, by assisting the Ministry of Planning in bringing the various parties to achieve a national consensus on that vision.[7]

25. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) allocated some $5 million to improve the human settlements and housing conditions of the Palestinian people. UNRWA began a process to examine how to better address deteriorating living conditions of the 1.6 million refugees living in 27 camps. The Agency sought to situate its shelter and re-housing efforts within a broader approach to camp development.

Targeted social assistance

26. Through its Special Hardship Case Programme, UNRWA distributed food and cash subsidy packages on a quarterly basis valued at $83 per person during the reporting period. In addition, UNRWA provided hundreds of refugees with apprenticeships and vocational or teacher training opportunities. The World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO identified vulnerable non-refugee beneficiaries for targeted support in food-insecure areas.

27. UNICEF-targeted assistance activities covered the areas most affected by closures, demolitions, military incursions and the Barrier. Those activities included child protection, health and nutrition, education and adolescent development and participation. The annual ILO fact-finding mission took place during March and April of 2006 in order to better understand the prevailing socio-economic situation and its impact on workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The results of the mission are to be published during the International Labour Conference in June 2006.

Human rights and women

28. During the reporting period, OHCHR continued its technical assistance programme to support the development of a modern system of governance based on the rule of law, separation of powers and administration of justice, in accordance with international human rights standards, through capacity-building workshops and briefings with visiting independent experts. The Office also worked in partnership with non-governmental organizations and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (the national human rights institution) to promote human rights through the media, seminars and other joint activities. OHCHR initiated the formation of a United Nations Inter-Agency Human Rights Working Group to facilitate human rights mainstreaming across the work of all agencies. Training

workshops were carried with the Ministry for Women's Affairs. WHO worked in partnership with Palestinian and Israeli non-governmental organizations to advocate for the right to health and to access health services within the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

29. UNIFEM expanded its Sabaya programme, aimed at increasing the participation of Palestinian women in social, economic and political life. Originally targeting only the West Bank, the programme now also covers the Gaza Strip. A total of $900,000 will be invested in 18 women's centres through a variety of initiatives related to education, health, economic security, leadership and empowerment. In addition, UNIFEM supported civil society initiatives to highlight honour crimes against women by advocating for changes in public attitudes and calling for changes to the penal code. The agency supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the development of a Palestinian Women's Bill of Rights, and supported dialogue between women's organizations and the Palestinian Authority. UNIFEM initiated a project to bring psychosocial and other counselling services providers to women's centres in rural communities. The overall investment of UNIFEM in women's rights activities was $80,000.

30. The capacity-building initiatives of UNESCO included programming implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the areas of girls' vocational counselling, academic assistance, and parental awareness of the importance of girls' education. The agency also supported the development of the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre, inaugurated in 2006, which conducted studies on women and poverty, the basic education system and the dimensions of women's empowerment. A branch of the centre will be established in Gaza in 2006. During the reporting period, UNFPA shifted some activities to incorporate humanitarian components such as emergency obstetric care, psychosocial counselling for young people and women, and community support groups working for women in isolated rural communities. UNRWA supported 46 community-based organizations, which encouraged women to play a more public role in society, and promoted enhanced management, finance and administration skills among refugee women. UNESCO worked to eliminate gender disparities in the education system by initiating a capacity-building programme with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, UNIFEM and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Safety and well-being of children

31. The rights of Palestinian children to education, health, nutrition and play continued to be challenged. By July 2005, about 10 per cent of children under age 5 were stunted. The prevalence of violence in homes, schools and neighbourhoods remained an issue of particular concern. Restrictions on movement also continued to make access to health facilities, schools, and extra-curricular activities difficult. School enrolment data revealed a 2-per cent decline in enrolment for both girls and boys during the reporting period. Some 3.1 per cent of Palestinian children worked, with a third of those working instead of attending school.

32. During the reporting period more than 25 Palestinian children were killed and many more injured by live fire, heavy artillery, tank shells, shrapnel and missiles. In 2004 UNRWA decided to enhance the technical capacity of its Community Mental Health Programme, and recruited a specialist in protection to identify protection gaps. Over 2,700 refugee children and youth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

received psychological counselling and support through UNRWA, and UNDP supported programmes aimed at increasing the resilience of children and youth who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other forms of trauma. UNICEF and its non-governmental partners ran 12 psychosocial emergency teams to address the conflict-related distress of children and their caregivers. In total, 50,000 children attended UNICEF debriefing sessions in 2005 and 25,000 caregivers were trained.

33. In response to high levels of violence against children and women in homes, schools and communities, UNICEF and its governmental and non-governmental partners have implemented a comprehensive programme since 2004, including monitoring, law and policy development, awareness-raising, capacity-building and the setting up of response systems. UNICEF also supported the development of a draft juvenile justice law and a Palestinian child rights law. In addition, UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Detainees Affairs in building a comprehensive database on Palestinian children held in Israeli detention. UNICEF and the Ministry of Planning also began establishing a national child protection monitoring system.

Youth

34. Addressing the high percentage of unemployment among young people, UNDP continued to focus on building up the capacity of the youth network in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNRWA continued to assist refugee youth ages 15 to 24 through education, job creation, access to microcredit, and extra-curricular activities. In addition to the formalized education offered by UNRWA, more than 11,600 refugee children and youth took advantage of various training or tutoring and skills-building activities in computers, languages, leadership training, sports, theatre, music and summer and winter camps.

Millennium Development Goals

35. During the reporting period, UNDP worked to promote the Millennium Development Goals agenda among United Nations agencies, Palestinian groups and international partners. The 2005 MDG Progress Report was prepared under the umbrella of the Palestinian National MDG Steering Committee and coordinated by UNDP. In addition, UNDP supported the efforts of the Ministry of Planning to align Palestinian medium-term development priorities with the Millennium Development Goals.

Environment

36. During the period under review, UNDP worked to create a favourable environment for human development by addressing the importance of solid waste and medical waste management, as well as through capacity-building of the people working in such facilities. In December 2005, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) conducted an independent assessment of the environmental status of the disengaged Israeli settlements in Gaza. All 21 disengaged settlements in the Gaza Strip were covered, as well as the Erez industrial zone. Following the laboratory phase, the findings were released in March 2006. UNEP agreed with UNDP to provide training to Palestinians on ways to address the asbestos remaining in the rubble of the demolished houses in the disengaged settlements. UNEP also committed to provide the expertise needed to prepare a proposal, through UNDP, on

overall waste management throughout the Gaza Strip. Additional follow-up activities are being discussed.

B. Governance and institutional support

Direct budget support

37. A critical aspect of institutional support during the reporting period was the emergency financing of the Palestinian budget. Salary support was central, given the importance of public sector salaries for individual Palestinian livelihoods and the broader economy. The World Bank administered the multi-donor financial management-reform trust fund, which, as of February 2006, had disbursed over $293 million in budget support to the Palestinian Authority. The World Bank's own operations included a number of emergency services support projects, designed to mitigate the deterioration in service provision by covering municipal services, water sewage, environmental management electricity, education, non-governmental organizations, community support, land administration, tertiary education, and the Social Safety Net Reform Project. On average, the Bank has leveraged about $2.4 in donor funds for every $1 from its own resources.

Capacity-building

38. According to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, $15.8 million was invested by United Nations agencies in technical assistance and capacity-building activities directly benefiting the Palestinian Authority. The UNDP Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals programme sent Palestinian experts to the Palestinian Authority, private sector and non-governmental organizations. The programme was utilized for capacity-building of the Prime Minister's Office and seven ministries. UNDP gave financial and technical support to the Palestinian Central Elections Commission and the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in January 2006. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued to provide the Palestinian Authority and civil society with a range of technical assistance, advisory services and capacity-building projects, covering areas such as development strategies and economic management, trade policy, investment retention, public debt management and trade facilitation. The resource mobilization efforts of ILO ensured continued operation of the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection.

39. ESCWA organized a series of training courses for staff of the Palestine Standards Institution, relevant ministries and private sector entities in order to improve practices in the areas of standardization, technical regulation and inspection. Another ESCWA training course for the personnel of the Ministry of National Economy was held to enhance the Ministry's capacity in packaging practical development projects. ILO, in cooperation with the Palestinian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, organized a workshop on the importance of small and medium enterprises. Training workshops were held in the West Bank and Gaza covering the issues of child labour, social security, occupational safety and health, capacity-building of trade unions, employment policy and industrial relations. A technical advisory mission also reviewed the organization, role, scope, and function of the Ministry of Labour.

40. In November 2005, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime convened a meeting between law enforcement and drug control agencies from Israel and the Palestinian Authority, where the two sides discussed collaborative arrangements to review the situation regarding trafficking of drugs and related activities. In January 2006 the Office on Drugs and Crime launched a programme to provide technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority in order to prevent drug abuse, trafficking and other related crimes. Following the Israeli disengagement from Gaza, the UNCTAD project for modernizing customs enabled the Palestinian Authority to fully deploy sovereign customs operations at the Palestinian-Egyptian border at Rafah.

41. UNIFEM worked with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in drafting the chapter on gender equality in the Palestinian Millennium Development Goals report and common country assessment document. UNIFEM, in cooperation with UNDP, provided technical support to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology to develop the Palestinian information and communications technology sector through the mobilization of women graduates. In January 2006, ESCWA supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs by organizing a series of training workshops focusing on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Using the action plan developed by the Ministry of Local Governance, UNDP assisted in preparations for decentralization and assisted with the establishment of gender units in 15 line ministries.

42. On judicial and legislative reforms, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs and specialized non-governmental organizations in reviewing the draft juvenile justice law. It also supported amendments to the 2005 Palestinian Child Law by initiating a broad-based consultation process. In addition, UNICEF launched a training programme on issues relating to the prevention of abuse in schools and supported the development of professional standards for psychosocial workers. OHCHR worked with the police academies in Jericho and Gaza to integrate human rights into the training curriculum and provided intensive training of trainer courses. The Director General of Palestinian Reform and Rehabilitation Centres agreed to similar programmes regarding training of trainers for prison personnel. Under an agreement with the Attorney General, training on human rights for prosecutors was initiated. UNDP continued the construction of courthouses and the building of the Ministry of Justice.

43. UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Health to align health budgets towards priority interventions in line with the Millennium Development Goals and to streamline socially responsible budgeting. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the unification and harmonization of health information systems in key areas such as maternal and child health, epidemiological surveillance, school health and immunization.

44. In other technical areas, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assisted with agricultural pest control. The Ministry of Agriculture continued receiving technical support to control and monitor the Mediterranean fruit fly population in the Gaza Strip. IAEA also supported the Palestinian Authority's radiation protection service as well as scholarships to the regional post-graduate diploma courses on radiation protection and safety of radiation sources, held in Damascus.

Culture

45. UNESCO completed the Inventory of Palestinian cultural and natural heritage sites of potential outstanding universal value, presented during the 29th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2005. The agency completed a comparative study on the cultural policies of the region. Maintenance and rehabilitation work on the Ramallah Archaeological Museum and other key sites were also initiated. Finally, UNESCO provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Culture in the preparation of proclaiming the traditional telling of folktales a "masterpiece of oral and intangible heritage of humanity".

Media

46. UNESCO provided technical and legal assistance to the Ministry of Information in drafting new media legislation. The agency also organized workshops on election reporting and coverage. A multimedia centre and a studio for children's programmes were established at the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation and staff training was organized.

C. Development of the private sector

47. The UNRWA microfinance programme has invested over $100 million in the Palestinian economy over the past 15 years through more than 100,000 microenterprise loans. In 2005 it financed half of all loans provided by the microfinance sector to Palestinian microenterprise, through 17,700 loans valued at $16.69 million. Some 30 per cent of these were loans to women microentrepreneurs working in the informal sector of the economy. Earlier in 2005, UNRWA introduced a $1.50 million pilot project in Gaza to provide microfinance for housing.

48. ILO began developing a joint programme with the Young Entrepreneurs Palestine, a Palestinian non-governmental organization, and the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development to promote work through micro and small enterprise development. ILO programmes also fostered personal entrepreneurial competencies. The World Bank's policy support and technical analysis led to the Joint Palestinian-Israeli Investors' Declaration presented in London in December 2005. UNICEF supported a salt plant located in Jericho to increase the production and quality of iodized salt. Sustainability was ensured by successfully streamlining iodized salt into the local market in partnership with agencies such as WFP. UNCTAD worked with private sector counterparts to establish the Palestinian Shippers Council in order to enhance the capacity of exporters and importers to effectively deal with shipping and transport intermediaries. With funding from ILO, UNCTAD implemented entrepreneur training workshops for approximately 100 small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs. During 2005, ESCWA launched the follow-up and implementation phase of the Arab-International Forum on Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

D. United Nations emergency assistance

49. Ongoing political uncertainty and economic hardship meant that a large proportion of United Nations assistance to the Occupied Palestinian Territory was directed towards emergency response. Operations were frequently affected by

restrictions on the movement of goods and personnel. As the political situation appeared to improve in the first months of 2005, the increasing attention of donors to medium-term assistance agendas resulted in a relative decline in support for emergency programmes. Political developments in the beginning of 2006, however, put funding for long-term development and support for Palestinian Authority capacity-building into question.

Emergency food and agriculture support

50. According to UNRWA, approximately 65 per cent of refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory received food support (75,000 families in the West Bank, and 135,000 in Gaza Strip). Restrictions on movement and declining donor support during 2005, however, required UNRWA to scale back its core provisions. In September 2005, WFP started its first Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation to provide direct food support to 480,000 non-refugee Palestinians, support livelihoods and prevent a decline in the nutritional status of the most food-insecure Palestinians. In 2005 WFP began addressing its humanitarian access problems in Gaza through purchasing 93 per cent of its food commodities locally. Between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005, WFP delivered over 70,000 metric tonnes of food aid, at a total expense of $35 million.

51. A FAO emergency project valued at $1 million provided agricultural inputs and equipment to vulnerable farmers, as well as numerous training courses for technicians and farmers on greenhouse construction and management and improved cultivation methods. UNDP financed the rehabilitation of destroyed agricultural assets in the northern Gaza Strip, the construction of greenhouses, cold storages, poultry and livestock farms and wells. In the West Bank, UNDP assisted in land reclamation and cultivation in several areas. UNDP and FAO together promoted several agricultural projects covering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and directly addressed critical situations such as the Barrier, land confiscation, destroyed crops, reduced rangeland, and the disengagement from Gaza.

Emergency employment support

52. The UNRWA job creation programme prioritized refugees with large families, supporting livelihoods with a remuneration of $10 to $12 per day per worker (an average of $2 per dependant per day). Employment programmes contributed to the repair of refugee camps infrastructure and the renovation of Agency facilities. In the Gaza Strip, over 24,000 people were temporarily employed, supporting over 186,000 dependants. In the West Bank, UNRWA also provided emergency direct employment to a total number of 4,500 refugees, benefiting 25,500 dependants. UNDP spent $28 million on emergency employment programmes. WFP provided food-for-work and food-for-training support for 39,700 workers from recently impoverished households, benefiting some 238,000 family members. ILO activities stimulated employment and income generation opportunities for 140 unemployed new graduates from the Palestinian industrial/vocational schools: 55 per cent of the graduates received permanent jobs.

Emergency health support

53. Continued closure within and between the territories severely challenged the Palestinian health system's ability to function at appropriate levels. The continuous closure of the Karni crossing also posed a risk for the availability of drugs. The referral system was hampered causing difficulties for patients from within the seam zone to enter the West Bank for medical attention in hospitals. Those difficulties were experienced by patients trying to access health facilities as well as by health professionals trying to reach their places of work. The procurement and delivery of cold chain equipments for needy clinics and districts was completed and 150 maternal and child health clinics were upgraded with medical equipment for implementing better quality child health and prenatal care by UNICEF. Some 50 clinics received equipment for health education and community awareness creation. Four new clinics in the former enclaves of Gaza and two new clinics in the West Bank were fully equipped for maternal and child health services.

54. UNRWA continued to run five mobile units as a continued response to restrictions on freedom of movement caused by closures and the building of the Barrier. A total of 136,000 patients were seen in 2005 at a cost of $2 million. In Gaza, during the Israeli disengagement, 8 medical teams were fully equipped, 60 volunteers were trained in first aid procedures and communities were mobilized on proper hygiene practices and the importance of breastfeeding. UNICEF also provided basic medical supplies, midwifery kits, family water kits, generators and other non-food items, and, in partnership with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, ensured continuous delivery of health services in the enclaved areas, notably in the northern areas of the West Bank. Micronutrient supplements were procured and delivered to the central stores. Given the volatile situation emergency preparedness planning and the preposition of critical supplies for basic health continued. Besides routine services, an immunization campaign for measles, mumps and rubella for 600,000 children was planned in Gaza during the spring of 2006.

Emergency education support

55. UNICEF continued its emergency education assistance to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Approximately $940,000 worth of education equipment was provided to Palestinian Authority-administered schools during the disengagement in Gaza. Training courses were also organized for teachers. UNDP continued the construction and rehabilitation of schools and classrooms and sanitary facilities for schools as emergency humanitarian assistance. At the time of the present report, 26 schools were under construction. ILO spent $1.5 million towards the establishment of a vocational training centre for the disabled in Hebron, to be fully operational in the beginning of 2007.

Emergency infrastructure support

56. Israeli military incursions and house demolitions continued in 2005, causing damage or destruction to Palestinian property (homes, shelters, commercial) in 389 recorded incidents. Some 286 structures were demolished and 103 sustained damages. Of the total incidents 66 per cent occurred in the Gaza Strip, the damage notably caused by missiles, and 25 per cent occurred in Nablus. A total of 1,150 Palestinians were recorded displaced. Those numbers are conservative, however, since data on displaced people are often not available.

57. Emergency infrastructure programmes implemented by UNDP covered a wide range of public services and municipal utilities, community centres, schools, hospitals, clinics, roads, sanitation systems and water treatment facilities. Expenditure amounted to $49 million. UNDP also provided housing to non-refugee Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

E. Coordination of United Nations assistance

58. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process continued its coordination of United Nations assistance to the Palestinian people and its representation of the United Nations system at donor forums. In 2005, the Office participated in the review and redesign of the local coordination structures and under this framework, assumed new responsibilities as co-chair of the Social Development and Humanitarian Strategy group. It also participated in the December 2005 meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on Assistance to the Palestinians, held in London. Locally, the Office convened regular coordination meetings of United Nations agencies and several extraordinary meetings on issues of special policy interest to the United Nations. Throughout the reporting period, the Office served as the focal point for coordination between the United Nations system and the office of the Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement.

59. In the second half of 2005, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs led in the preparation of the 2006 consolidated appeals process, under which a total of over $215 million was requested to finance activities for 12 agencies and 9 non-governmental organizations. Prior to the appeal, the Office conducted a needs analysis, that focused on life-saving humanitarian needs such as improving availability of food, emergency employment of vulnerable households, enhancing access to health services and improving the awareness of the root causes of the humanitarian situation.

60. The Government of Japan, through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, started funding a project supporting isolated and disenfranchised communities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with a budget of $5.3 million, to be implemented jointly by several United Nations agencies. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process served as local focal point for the coordination of Trust Fund activities. UNIFEM began supporting training for field researchers involved in the coordination of humanitarian affairs on gender as a research tool, in order to ensure gender sensitization.

61. WHO and FAO chaired the United Nations Crisis Management Team for Avian Influenza that developed a United Nations staff contingency plan.

Humanitarian access

62. In 2005, ambulance operators reported a total of 162 access incidents in which the provision of first aid and/or medical evacuations was delayed, obstructed and/or prevented by Israeli security forces. Similarly in 2005, relief agencies filed reports of some 778 incidents in which the delivery of aid and/or the movement of personnel were obstructed by Israeli authorities. Access of humanitarian personnel via the Erez crossing remained problematic, and the planned completion of the

Barrier around Jerusalem raised the prospect of problems of access for over 400 United Nations staff in the long term.

United Nations media and public information activities

63. United Nations agencies continued to work closely with international and local media to draw attention to and provide information on the situation of the Palestinian people and United Nations responses in the region. The United Nations Advocacy and Public Information Committee coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process highlighted pressing humanitarian issues to the media and provided maps, reports and facts sheets before and during the disengagement period.

United Nations and the civil society dimension

64. ESCWA, in partnership with the Arab NGO Network for development, and the Palestinian NGO Network established the Arab-Palestinian Civil Society Organizations Coalition. A regional meeting was held with the participation of major Arab and Palestinian civil society entities and networks.

IV. Donor response to the crisis

A. Emergency budget and fiscal support

65. The Palestinian Authority's fiscal deficit widened substantially in 2005. Revenues increased by $278 million to reach over $1.2 billion in 2005, about 27.5 per cent of GDP, mostly reflecting increased indirect tax receipts — collected by the Government of Israel and transferred to the Palestinian Authority — resulting from higher oil prices, as well as exceptional profits transfers from Palestinian Authority-owned corporations and administrative improvements.

66. Expenditures also increased by $466 million to reach almost $2 billion, owing to large salary increases and a further rise in Palestinian Authority employment, to higher social transfers and increased operating expenditures. Net lending increased to over twice the budget allocation, to cover shortfalls in the recovery of higher costs by energy enterprises and municipalities.[8] Consequently, the budget deficit reached $762 million in 2005, or 17 per cent of GDP, compared to $574 million in 2004. Only $349 million in external budget support was received,[9] roughly half of what was foreseen in the budget. The resulting fiscal gap was financed mainly by advances from the Palestine Investment Fund and increased borrowing from domestic banks — often collateralized with assets of the Fund. The fiscal situation is expected to become even more precarious in 2006, particularly as donor assistance and the transfer of indirect tax revenue by the Government of Israel have become uncertain in the wake of the Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

B. Support for Palestinian reform

67. The Task Force on Palestinian Reform continued to monitor and support the Palestinian reform process in the areas of elections, financial accountability, the judicial sector and rule of law, legislation, market economy, local government and public administration. The Task Force worked with the Palestinian Authority Reform Coordination Support Unit to implement its donor supported one-year reform action plan until the end of 2005, when it was formally wound down and absorbed into a new donor coordination structure under the leadership of the European Commission.

68. Much progress was made with regard to electoral and financial reform, whereas judicial and legislative efforts fell short of expectations. A series of municipal elections and legislative elections were successfully held during the reporting period. Despite improvements with financial management, salaries in the education and security sectors increased and progress on retirements and personnel turnover stalled. As a result, a number of donors began revising their aid to the Palestinian Authority. Continued corruption, lack of will on the part of some politicians and external forces that included stringent Israeli security measures, all served to limit the functional authority of the Palestinian Authority and to stifle the growth and reform of public institutions.

69. While donors remained interested in preserving mechanisms for distributing humanitarian and emergency support, political and legal restrictions for providing institutional support prompted a donor-wide review following the legislative elections. As the new Palestinian Legislative Council took power, efforts were being made to identify certain institutions such as the Judiciary and Presidency in order to facilitate disbursements of donor funds that would be beyond the control of the new Palestinian legislature. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process led the United Nations community efforts in that effort.

C. Donor coordination

70. Throughout 2005, the donor community, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement worked closely to implement the recommendations of the London meeting of 1 March 2005. Local donor coordination structures were significantly revised in order to simplify the aid management process, strengthen the strategic quality of donor discussions, and secure closer involvement of the Palestinian Authority. Four strategy groups were created, to cover governance, economic policy, infrastructure and social development/humanitarian affairs. The future workplan of the groups, and related decisions about the allocation of aid, remained contingent upon the donor programme review initiated in February 2006.

V. Challenges ahead

71. The overall situation during the reporting period was characterized by uncertainty and failed expectations. It remains to be seen whether the parties will seek to overcome the obstacles that currently exist and explore the possibility of negotiations, or whether other approaches will come to dominate.

72. Despite an apparent stabilization of the economy and growth in private sector activities after 2003, all Palestinians did not benefit comprehensively or equitably. Looking ahead, the numbers of chronically poor are likely to increase, and public institutions to weaken, if major disruptions of aid flows take place. It is not yet clear if the Palestinian Authority will be able to pay the salaries of the approximately 152,000 Palestinians it employs, including 73,000 security personnel. Public sector employees now make up 37 per cent of all employed in Gaza and 14 per cent of all employed in the West Bank. Their spending power in local shops and services plays an increasingly important role in keeping the local economy afloat. An estimated 25 per cent of the total Palestinian population is dependent on a Palestinian Authority wage-earner.

73. The donor community is searching for ways to maintain vital support for the Palestinian people while, at the same time, pressing the Palestinian Authority to accede to the Quartet's three principles, namely a recognition of Israel's right to exist, a renunciation of violence, and the acknowledgement of previous international agreements. While donors remain committed to averting a new socio-economic crisis in the territory, Palestinian Authority institutions are facing a serious fiscal threat, and the prospect of a temporary international disengagement.

74. In operational terms, closures, security restrictions and continued challenges to United Nations privileges and immunities by the Government of Israel are likely to strain implementation of programmes. Agencies, with support from their headquarters, will need to adopt a more robust common approach to access.

VI. Observations

75. The period under review was one of rapid change in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, and the election of new governments in both Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, have transformed the political terrain. Terrorism and violence continued, construction of the Barrier proceeded apace, and restrictions continued on the movement of Palestinians in the wake of the Palestinian legislative elections. Prospects of negotiations between the parties appeared to recede in the early months of 2006.

76. Significant financial support from the international community will be needed in order to avoid further degradations in the quality of life within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, a contraction in the Palestinian economy and an attendant increase in socio-economic and humanitarian needs of the Palestinian population, and to maintain a basis for long-term economic recovery. The Government of Israel, which stated in January 2006 that it would interrupt transfers of the Palestinian value-added taxes and customs taxes it collects on the behalf of the Palestinian Authority, is strongly encouraged to resume payments through an appropriate mechanism. The Palestinian Authority, for its part, should comply with the three conditions of the Quartet. This would also enable the international community to contribute more to the alleviation of the humanitarian and economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

77. In that context, the assumption of a transition towards medium- and longer-term development planning, which had underpinned most international aid strategies in 2005, was set aside. Nonetheless, and despite significantly scaled-down planning

time frames, the United Nations system maintained its full commitment to assisting Palestinians, and worked closely with donors to maintain the continuity of its programmes and to preserve, to the extent possible, the essential social functions of the Palestinian Authority.

78. It will be critical in the months ahead that United Nations agencies be able to quickly and adequately address needs through established mechanisms such as the consolidated appeals process, while continuing to pursue the broader aim of the United Nations, the Quartet and the entire international community: the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), and the establishment of a sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace with a secure Israel.

Notes

[1] See S/PRST/2006/6 of 3 February 2006.

[2] World Bank, "West Bank and Gaza Economic Update and Potential Outlook", 15 March 2006.

[3] World Food Programme Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Branch, "Food insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 2005/2006".

[4] Graduate Institute for Development Studies (IUED), Public Perception Poll No. 9, as reported in *Palestinian Public Perceptions, Report IX*, October 2005.

[5] The Rafah crossing was closed for 91 days (25 per cent of the year) prior to December 2005 when management of the crossing was formally handed to the PA under the provisions of the Agreement on Movement and Access. This transfer was made possible by the deployment of European Union technical teams to the Rafah crossing on 18 December 2005.

[6] *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*. See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

[7] ESCWA input was acknowledged by the Ministry of Planning in the Palestinian Medium-term Development Plan 2006-2008.

[8] This included the need to cover non-payment of utility bills by consumers; increased electricity generation by the Gaza power plant using relatively expensive fuel oil; and subsidies on petroleum product prices.

[9] Donor support came mainly from Arab donors, including Algeria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and from the World Bank-administered public financial management reform trust fund.

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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 24 April 2006)

I. Introduction

1. The special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held on 24 April 2006. The overall theme of the meeting was "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome". The meeting had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/2006/48) that provided background information and raised a number of questions.

2. The 2006 meeting was preceded by extensive consultations within the Economic and Social Council, and between the President and members of the Bureau of the Council and the management of the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, as well as by separate meetings with the Executive Boards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and UNCTAD. The President of the Council also met with the Chairperson of the General Council of WTO. During those meetings, the agenda and the format of the special high-level meeting were discussed and mutually agreed upon.

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.
** E/2006/100.

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3. The consultations resulted in agreement on four sub-themes that were the focus of substantive discussions in four parallel round tables that took place during the meeting. The four sub-themes were: (i) Implementation of and support for national development strategies towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (ii) Fulfilling the development dimension of the Doha work programme: next steps, including in the area of "Aid for Trade"; (iii) External debt: implementing and building on current initiatives to enhance debt sustainability; and (iv) Supporting the development efforts of middle-income developing countries.

4. The format of the meeting featured a brief opening plenary, including statements by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ali Hachani; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan; the Chair of the Development Committee, Alberto Carrasquilla; the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, Ransford Smith; the representative of the Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), Agustin Carstens; and the Deputy Director-General of WTO, Valentine Rugwabiza. The opening plenary was followed by the round tables, which allowed for a free-flowing discussion among participants. A resumed afternoon plenary was devoted to reporting back on the round-table discussions and to further debate.

5. The co-chairs and lead discussants of the round tables were as follows: (round table A) Maria Luiza Viotti, Director-General of Humanitarian and Social Themes, Ministry of External Relations (Brazil) and Tom Scholar, Executive Director, IMF and World Bank (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), as co-chairs, with Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the United Nations Millennium Project and Lee Kyu-hyung, Vice Foreign Minister (Republic of Korea), as lead discussants; (round table B) Eckhard Deutscher, Executive Director, World Bank (Germany) and Ransford Smith, President, UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, as co-chairs, with Bruce Montador, Vice-President, Canadian International Development Agency and Mia Horn Af Rantzien, Chairperson of the WTO Aid for Trade Task Force, as lead discussants; (round table C) Sri Mulyani, Minister of Finance (Indonesia) and Willy Kiekens, Senior Executive Director, IMF, as co-chairs, with Richard Manning, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Dirk Bruinsma, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD, as lead discussants; (round table D) Mohamed Nouri Jouini, Minister of Development and International Cooperation (Tunisia) and Leire Pajin, Vice-Minister, Secretary of State for International Cooperation (Spain), as co-chairs, with José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, and Agustin Carstens, Deputy Managing Director, IMF, as lead discussants.

6. This year's meeting had a record number of participating executive and alternate directors of the Boards of the World Bank and of IMF. Other participants included ministers and vice-ministers of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation and heads of international organizations, as well as high-level officials in the areas of trade, finance, development cooperation and foreign affairs (see E/2006/INF/1). Representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector also participated in the plenary meetings and round tables.

7. What follows is a summary of the salient issues discussed in the morning and afternoon plenary meetings and in the round tables. The summary reflects

observations, analyses, initiatives and recommendations put forward by participants in the course of the meeting. Several of them refer to possible themes that might be addressed by the Economic and Social Council in the future. In my concluding remarks, I suggested to start exploring how to enhance the impact of the dialogue and proposed to initiate consultations with all stakeholders in that regard. The summary is structured largely on the basis of the sub-themes mentioned above.

II. The global landscape and development cooperation

8. In the view of several participants, 2005-2006 was shaping up as a positive period for development. The world economy and all developing regions were growing; after the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus,[1] aid was on the increase; official debt relief was reducing debt servicing in a significant number of highly indebted countries; concrete progress in new and innovative sources of finance was taking place; and private flows to developing countries were expanding. Yet, the risks posed by the large and still growing global imbalances and the likelihood that a substantial number of countries would not reach the Millennium Development Goals persisted. While some countries were on track to reach those Goals, in many countries — particularly in Africa and Latin America — progress was still insufficient. Moreover, several speakers stressed that in contrast to the favourable developments in the financial area, advances in the international trade negotiations had been negligible.

9. A number of participants pointed out that 2005 had been a milestone year for the global partnership for development: the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles had agreed to a comprehensive package to support faster progress in Africa towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; at the High-level Forum on Joint Progress towards Enhanced Aid Effectiveness in Paris, developed and developing countries had agreed to enhance aid effectiveness and reaffirmed their commitments to harmonize and align aid delivery; and the World Summit in New York had paid critical attention to development together with peace and security, human rights and reform of the United Nations. As a result, the process of implementing the international development agenda had taken a significant step forward.

10. Several speakers noted the gradual convergence of development cooperation institutions on the pursuit of internationally agreed development goals. It was essential to preserve and continue to build on that approach. It was particularly important to enhance coherence among those organizations that played a key role in assisting countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. According to numerous speakers, the danger that a substantial number of countries would not achieve the Goals by 2015 existed. Thus, stronger efforts were required by national authorities in recipient countries, by donors and by international organizations to ensure that policies and concrete measures as well as sufficient financial resources were in place.

11. Some representatives emphasized the role of the private sector as an engine of growth and development. Its full participation in the development process, as well

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

as that of civil society at large, was key to sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Indeed, the issue of participation by the country's citizens at all levels was important to achieve a widespread sense of ownership.

12. A number of speakers stressed that it was important that the membership of international organizations be representative of today's realities. They were encouraged that agreement had been reached in the International Monetary and Financial Committee to consider, at the annual meetings this autumn, concrete proposals to improve the distribution of IMF quotas to reflect significant changes in the weight and role of countries in the world economy. Several participants expressed the hope that other intergovernmental bodies would also consider the issue of voice and representation to render their own boards in tune with present realities. Such a measure would certainly strengthen development cooperation.

III. Implementation of and support for national development strategies towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

13. Many discussants stated that truly owned national development strategies were the launching pad for development efforts, adding that such strategies should reflect the conditions in the respective country. In designing the national development strategy, it was crucial for policymakers to identify major roadblocks to development and the actions needed to remove them. In this context, room for manoeuvre and, hence, actual policy space were a key factor. It was also important to use a bottom-up approach so that all development actors participated in its implementation. Various participants presented a brief assessment of their own country's experience and concluded that in the long run human resource development was the central factor in economic and social progress. A number of representatives stressed that the strategy should cover all key areas and identify priorities along the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, some participants emphasized that the strategy should look far beyond the Goals. It was noted that objectives such as increasing employment and enhancing social cohesion should be a priority, since those two objectives were important per se and also were key to achieving other critical goals.

14. A successful implementation of the national development strategy, according to several discussants, required action on various fronts as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus: sound macroeconomic framework to mobilize domestic resources and attract capital from abroad; good governance accompanied by the political will of authorities to take the actions and pursue the policies explicit in the strategy; involvement by different sectors of society; a fiscal budget that reflects priorities and measures envisaged in the strategy; secure international development financing, including alignment of donors' support with the priorities of the recipient country; and an overall "enabling" international environment, involving measures in the areas of trade and financial systems.

15. The danger of a proliferation of documents existed, according to some representatives. At the 2005 World Summit, Member States had resolved to adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve

the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, there was no need for every country to develop brand new strategies. Countries could build on the existing national strategies, with the Goals being integrated in them. In this context, a number of participants expressed their support for the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the World Bank on incorporation of the Millennium Development Goals into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

16. Some discussants stressed the importance of result-oriented strategies. That required paying special attention to the country's implementation capacities and, hence, to technical assistance requirements. Along with sufficient funding, technical assistance to increase absorptive capacity was key to ensuring a more effective and efficient use of resources. It was noted that IMF, by working with finance ministers of donor countries, should be more proactive and play a more important role in helping to secure international development financing and in advising on how to close the possible financial gap in the national development strategy.

17. In the view of a number of representatives, the Economic and Social Council should become more effective in engaging counterparts dealing with finance and trade. A question was raised about a possible role of a reformed Council in fostering national development strategies. Some participants pointed out that the Council should promote cooperation between different stakeholders involved in the implementation of national development strategies. The Council could also play a more active role in reviewing and assessing implementation of agreed goals and commitments. Speakers noted that the new functions of the Economic and Social Council could play an important role to that end.

18. There was convergence of views that an increase in the volume, quality and effectiveness of aid was necessary. Despite the recent increases in official development assistance (ODA), several speakers stressed that substantial scaling-up was still needed. Actual disbursements by most donors were still below the 0.7 per cent target. Several discussants indicated that, where possible, it was important to shift from off-budget funding to through-budget funding. It was noted that the stability of aid flows was important and that multi-year funding could enhance the predictability of aid, thus facilitating a smoother implementation of the national development strategy. Regarding effectiveness, a number of participants emphasized that the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness should be expeditiously implemented.

19. Some speakers felt that the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)/ OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank should address the issue of herding of aid, which was going to be analysed next year in the Global Monitoring Report. It was also noted that in some donor countries the flow of aid from private sources — foundations, non-governmental organizations, private remittances — was not only increasing, but even exceeded ODA. Thus, it was suggested that given the importance of a continuing expansion of aid from private sources, the Economic and Social Council could play a role in that regard.

20. A large number of participants also pointed out the progress achieved in innovative sources of financing. It was a welcome development, particularly since financing from such sources would be additional to official flows through more traditional channels and might also be more stable. Many speakers expressed

support for continuing work on innovative sources of finance, including the expansion of pilot projects such as the air-ticket solidarity contribution and the International Financial Facility for Immunization. In that context, various representatives highlighted the importance of the recent conference held in Paris on that subject and the formation of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development. The decision of the 2005 World Summit to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly was also welcomed.

IV. Fulfilling the development dimension of the Doha work programme: next steps, including in the area of "Aid for Trade"

21. Many participants reiterated that trade was an engine of growth. Trade liberalization as conceived in the Doha Development Agenda would benefit developing countries much more than aid. Most of the gains for developing countries would come from increased trade in agriculture. That would lift the lives of millions of poor who live in rural areas. Expanded market access for developing countries in agriculture as well as in manufacturing and services — particularly transitory movement of natural persons — was key to rapid increases in exports of developing countries. That would accelerate development and facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Several speakers stressed that international trade should be mainstreamed in the country's national development strategy, paying special attention to the role of the private sector since private entrepreneurs were usually the most dynamic agents in international trade. Some discussants noted the need for agreements and rules of the game on international trade that provided enough policy space to developing countries, in particular more vulnerable countries or countries with serious structural problems such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

22. In the view of several speakers, while the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005 had set ambitious deadlines, little progress had taken place in negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda. Unless major strides were achieved soon there was the possibility of failure, they added. It was critical that a judicious agreement in the international trade negotiations was achieved in the next few months since the Trade Promotion Authority in the United States was due to expire in the first half of 2007 and protectionist pressures were on the increase in a number of countries. The costs of failing to reach agreement would be high: developing countries would lose a major opportunity to open world markets for their exports and to redress imbalances in global trade relations; all countries would suffer as a result of a weakened WTO; and bilateralism would supplant multilateralism.

23. Notwithstanding, a large number of participants were of the view that with a great deal of work and political will a meaningful agreement on the Doha Development Agenda could be reached. According to many of them, the agreement should include substantial figures for reducing trade-distorting subsidies and an equivalent package on market access. Also, decisive progress was needed in anti-dumping and major advances were necessary in special and differential treatment. Indeed, only a decisive step in special and differential treatment would mean that

development — and not exclusively liberalization — was a key objective of the current multilateral trade negotiations. Several speakers noted that in a few elements of the Doha Development Agenda some progress had already taken place. At the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, countries had agreed on the elimination of all export subsidies on cotton by the end of 2006, and there was an agreement to offer least developed countries (LDCs) duty-free and quota-free market access to 97 per cent of their products.

24. A number of representatives also pointed out that at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, "Aid for Trade" had been given official recognition as a key instrument for facilitating a smooth integration of developing countries into the international trade system. A task force on how to operationalize "Aid for Trade" among WTO members had been established and was already functioning well. "Aid for Trade" was a critical part in the development equation, according to numerous discussants. Many developing countries needed to enhance significantly their trade-related capacity and infrastructure to benefit from trade liberalization. Thus, it was stressed that "Aid for Trade" was not a substitute for fulfilling the Doha Development Agenda but a necessary and valuable component. It involved several elements or dimensions: technical assistance regarding knowledge of trade opportunities and how to benefit from them, including domestic regulation and policy; institutional capacity-building, particularly enhancing the customs system; infrastructure, including roads, ports and telecommunications; adjustment assistance to cope with transition costs such as preference erosion or higher agricultural prices. In this context, a number of participants emphasized that the focus of "Aid for Trade" should be development rather than market liberalization, and that paying special attention to supply capacities in recipient countries should be at the core of the initiative.

25. Some representatives stated that "Aid for Trade" should be built on the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, and that it should be tailored to the country's stage of development. A number of speakers pointed out that the financing of "Aid for Trade" should be additional, should involve no conditionalities and should be preferably in the form of grants. Also, efforts should be made to identify good practices and integrate "Aid for Trade" into the PRSPs. It was noted that three aspects required special attention when considering "Aid for Trade" in any individual country: the potential of medium-size enterprises; industrial clusters; and private sector involvement.

V. External debt: implementing and building on current initiatives to enhance debt sustainability

26. Many participants focused on debt sustainability. They stressed that developing countries needed sustainable debt levels to be able to make progress on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Debt relief had been extended to many countries, yet there was still a substantial number of highly indebted developing countries whose debts were not sustainable. Strengthened international efforts were, therefore, needed to consider and implement some form of debt restructuring or debt relief for such countries. Also, for numerous speakers, financing of debt relief efforts should be additional to already existing ODA commitments. There were convergent views

regarding the current benign environment in international capital markets. Notwithstanding, it was stressed that low spreads and ample access to capital should not lead to complacency, since the situation could reverse abruptly.

27. Several discussants pointed out that an unsustainable debt burden often arose as a result of borrowing on inappropriate terms or for inappropriate purposes. Thus, prudent management of debt flows was seen as critical. Some representatives highlighted the important contribution that the Bretton Woods institutions, and particularly UNCTAD with its programme for debt management capacity-building, were making in that field. In the view of some participants, debt-servicing problems could, on many occasions, be treated as a symptom and not as a cause of economic malaise. In that case, the emphasis should be put on policies conducive to sustained economic growth and good governance, including improvements in tax administration and tax collection. Yet, it was important to keep in mind that debt sustainability changed over time depending on countries' economic and political circumstances. It was noted that under current conditions a number of developing countries were accumulating reserves as a cautionary measure: avoiding debt-servicing problems in the future. That was proving costly as reserves were not being used for productive purposes. Some speakers stressed that debtors and creditors should share joint responsibility in working within a coherent and cooperative approach towards a more equitable and fair international financing architecture.

28. A number of participants stated that the provision of resources for the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and recent actions by the Bretton Woods institutions to implement that initiative were important steps to support poor countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Some speakers expressed concern for potentially adverse market responses to debt relief such as worse credit ratings and less access to finance, while others called for extending MDRI to other countries, including the involvement of additional multilateral development institutions. Several discussants called attention to the moral hazard, whereby countries with prudent debt management practices might be excluded from debt relief initiatives. Moreover, the fact that non-concessional lenders could emerge as free riders as a result of MDRI caused some unease among official lenders.

29. It was stressed that countries benefiting from MDRI should be vigilant in order to refrain from building excessive debts. Indeed, in order to avoid unsustainable debt burdens, grant financing and highly concessional borrowing had to be made available to developing countries, in particular those that were vulnerable to external shocks. It was noted that some of the highly indebted countries could use flexible mechanisms in the form of debt swaps for Millennium Development Goal projects which would not only reduce the debt burden but would also facilitate the achievement of the Goals. Several speakers expressed concern that MDRI might direct resources to a few selected countries. Debt relief for some comparatively large countries tended to distort aid numbers. The eventual role of emerging market donors was also highlighted. Some participants suggested taking up that issue as one of the agenda items of the newly established Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council.

30. A number of representatives emphasized that the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative could help low-income countries to raise their standing in world markets. However, it was noted that the design of the HIPC Initiative, its transparency and the information on implementation modalities

had to be improved for the private sector to adequately price risk and consider new investments. Some participants also noted that existing frameworks to deal with debt problems of middle-income countries were insufficient; for example, the Evian Approach did not distinguish between solvency and liquidity, and concentrated exclusively on debt restructuring without considering debt relief. New debt instruments, according to some speakers, could be used to reduce the probability of future problems: the developments of domestic currency bond markets in borrowing countries could provide a cushion against the adverse effects of the reversal of capital flows and banking crises; and issuance of gross domestic product (GDP)-indexed bonds — which implied a bond with an interest coupon directly linked to the rate of GDP growth of the issuing country — could alleviate payments in difficult times.

VI. Supporting the development efforts of middle-income developing countries

31. Several speakers pointed out that a substantial number of middle-income countries had problems that were similar to those of low-income countries: pockets of urban and rural poverty; unemployment and underemployment; inequality and gaps in the provision of essential social services; and a large external debt. At the same time, middle-income countries were vulnerable to external financial shocks leading to macroeconomic instability and, on some occasions, to full-blown balance-of-payments crises. It was noted that significant differences existed among those countries regarding population levels, economic size, geography and stage of development. Therefore, their problems had to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and development cooperation should focus on each country's specificities.

32. Several representatives observed that in many quarters there was unease because of the persistence of serious socio-economic problems in some of those countries. Their economic growth in the last few decades had been precarious and they had achieved little or no progress towards increased equity. In the view of a number of participants, it was necessary to develop international support instruments to address such problems. The needs of all middle-income countries, including particularly the lower middle-income countries, had to be taken fully into account in the process. It was stressed that the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors had an important role to play in the development of those support instruments. There was also an important role for the development banks, particularly the regional development banks, to support the development of financing mechanisms better targeted to middle-income countries.

33. Some discussants pointed to the crucial role of measures to enhance macroeconomic stability in middle-income countries since instability in the past had led to quite high social and economic costs. Such measures, they said, should focus on reducing risks and increasing space for counter-cyclical policies. Also, a number of participants remarked that international financial facilities to provide timely and adequate support during times of economic distress were essential. It was noted that mechanisms for pooling of reserves also needed further development. Some representatives observed that non-financial assistance to middle-income developing countries in the form of technical cooperation, including capacity-building, was also important, particularly in such areas as social protection and governance.

34. Several speakers said that a number of middle-income countries were experiencing high economic growth, and their weight in the world economy had risen considerably. Thus, there was a need to strengthen the voice and representation of those countries in the international financial institutions. Some discussants pointed out that in addition to strengthening their representation on the boards of those institutions, middle-income countries should also be equitably represented at the management level.

35. Numerous participants emphasized the need for special international financial support to target the poor within middle-income developing countries. What was required, according to those participants, was a programme under which finance could be obtained for specific social projects. Furthermore, there was a need to develop subnational financial instruments or mechanisms that could help to assist poorer regions within middle-income countries.

36. In the view of many representatives, policies to facilitate the development of the private sector were important for reducing poverty. In particular, there was a need for an enabling business environment, including good governance and sound legal and regulatory mechanisms that fostered transparency and the creation of new enterprises. The latter was a critical factor in providing productive employment. Numerous speakers stressed the importance of enhancing the mobilization of private capital to finance infrastructure projects of middle-income countries. International organizations, particularly multilateral development banks, could help to leverage private finance into that field. It was noted that, provided strong regulatory frameworks were in place, public-private partnerships could make a significant contribution. Also, the development of capital markets in middle-income countries had an enormous potential in the medium to long term to mobilize and attract private capital.

37. A number of representatives welcomed the forthcoming conference on international support for development of middle-income countries organized by the Government of Spain in cooperation with the United Nations. They looked forward to making progress on the issues discussed above. According to various participants, the conference would also be an opportunity to share successful experiences, including in technology transfer and South-South cooperation.

38. Indeed, in the view of several speakers, South-South cooperation in trade, finance and technology development needed strengthening. It was noted that common science and technology systems could be developed to facilitate technology transfer and upgrading. There were also calls upon developed countries to enhance their assistance to South-South cooperation and to expand their support for triangular cooperation.

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Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The fourth annual progress report shows that despite improved economic performance, extreme poverty appears to be decreasing in very few of the least developed countries (LDCs) and increasing in many. In unprecedented reversal of historical trends, life expectancy is declining in several LDCs, most affected by HIV/AIDS and civil strife. Other social indicators, including gender equality, are improving owing to the donor direct support to the social sectors but remain the lowest in the world. The report concludes that very few LDCs can meet goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action, if current trends persist.

The report shows that fast population growth, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS aggravate extreme poverty in LDCs. Climate change is emerging as a new challenge to sustainable development of the LDCs, in particular those in Africa and the small islands.

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The report calls for continued commitment and renewed energy of LDCs and their development partners to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It recommends that LDCs integrate the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action into their Millennium Development Goals-based national development strategies and calls on their development partners to support those strategies through the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Fund and poverty reduction strategy papers processes. Those integrated investment and operational frameworks must be underpinned by a bottom-up and needs-based assessment and supported by a number of "quick-win" interventions.

The report emphasizes that keeping promises on aid, debt relief, market access and technical assistance is crucial for breaking the poverty trap of LDCs and for maintaining the credibility of the Programme of Action designed as a framework of partnership between LDCs and their development partners.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004 and resolution 2005/44 of 27 July 2005 of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[1] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels in May 2001, in an analytical and results-oriented way by placing emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

2. The present report follows the structure of the Brussels Programme of Action and reviews progress in its implementation by its contribution to progress of least developed countries (LDCs) towards achieving international development targets, as stipulated in the Programme of Action.

3. The list of indicators used for measuring progress of LDCs and their development partners on the international development goals and targets contained in the Brussels Programme of Action is provided in annex I to the report.

4. While the report makes an assessment of performance of the LDCs group as a whole, there are inevitable and sometimes wide variations in performance among individual countries. The performance of individual LDCs is reflected in annex II to the report, which provides country-specific statistical data. Those data have been compiled from international sources which, in turn, are based on national sources. Full citations to the sources are provided at the bottom of each table.

5. The Brussels Programme of Action requires that the assessment includes measuring progress in graduation from the list of LDCs. Graduation from LDC status falls under the purview of the Committee for Development Policy, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, which comprises independent experts who review the list of LDCs every three years and make recommendations for inclusion in, or graduation from, the list of LDCs.

6. In 2004, the General Assembly took note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate two LDCs.[2] Cape Verde is currently in the transition to graduation in 2007, while the commencement of the three-year smooth transition period for the graduation of Maldives, severely hit by a tsunami in December 2004, has been deferred for three years until 1 January 2008.[3] In the 2006 triennial review, the Committee recommended that Papua New Guinea be included[4] and that Samoa be graduated from the list of LDCs. The Committee also found that Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were eligible for graduation. In accordance with the established procedures, they will be considered for graduation at the next triennial review. A further seven LDCs were found to meet one of the three graduation criteria. The 2006 review concluded, however, that 36 LDCs failed to meet any of the criteria for graduation, a reflection of their slow progress in development.[5]

II. Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action

Commitment 1
Fostering a people-centred policy framework

7. Accelerated, sustained and inclusive growth is indispensable for poverty reduction and sustainable growth in the LDCs. To achieve the objective of halving the proportion of people living in poverty and hunger by 2015, the Brussels Programme of Action set the goals of reaching a minimum 7 per cent per annum growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and a minimum 25 per cent ratio of investment to GDP for LDCs by 2010.

8. During the period 2001-2004, the average annual growth rate of the real (constant price) GDP of the LDCs was 5.5 per cent, compared to 4.4 per cent in the period 1996-2000 and 2.2 per cent in the period 1991-1995. Faster growth was fuelled in many LDCs by increased demand and prices for commodities and was mainly concentrated in the mining and oil sectors. Despite the overall improvement, only five countries met the target of annual growth rate of 7 per cent since the adoption of the Programme of Action, including three countries that benefited from oil sector development and one that experienced a strong post-conflict, aid-driven recovery after a long period of negative growth. A further 15 LDCs achieved average growth of over 5 per cent during the period 2001-2004, but in six countries GDP has fallen since 2000. Annual real per capita GDP in LDCs grew much slower than total GDP owing to fast population growth. It increased only from US$ 288 in 1990 to $339 in 2003.

9. Data for 2003-2004 indicate that 14 LDCs have already met the investment target and that the investment ratio is 20 per cent or above in a further 11 countries. In 11 LDCs the investment rate remains below 15 percent, however (see annex II, table 1).

10. Economic growth in the LDCs does not appear to have led to meaningful reductions in poverty. In 9 of the 17 LDCs for which recent international comparable data are available, over 50 per cent of the population subsists on less than $1 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day. Trend data relating to this benchmark are available for only 12 LDCs. Three of those countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Mauritania) have achieved a significant reduction in poverty since the first half of the 1990s, but eight others have experienced increases in poverty. Poverty has remained unchanged but very high in the remaining country (see annex II, table 2).

11. Some progress has been achieved in most LDCs in reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger, but rates of undernourishment remain high and are above 41 per cent or higher in 10 LDCs. Most LDCs seem unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (ibid.).

12. Civil conflict, extreme poverty, inadequate nutrition and HIV/AIDS combined have produced the unprecedented result of a decline in life expectancy since 1990 in one fifth of the LDCs, all of which are in Africa. Life expectancy in all LDCs in other regions increased between 1990-1995 and 2000-2005, in some cases significantly but remains below 50 years (ibid.). Nonetheless, owing to a very high fertility rate, the population of the LDCs has increased from 522 million people in

1990 to 741 million people in 2004 and to an estimated 759 million in 2005 (see annex II, table 1).

13. Originally designed as debt-relief tools, poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) have been increasingly seen as the main operational and investment framework and the primary strategic vehicle for countries to tackle poverty and hunger and to reach the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. As of 28 February 2006, two thirds of all LDCs had prepared PRSPs, with Benin and Uganda having prepared the drafts of their second. Several other LDCs had prepared one or more progress reports on the implementation of their PRSPs.

14. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed the Millennium Declaration and resolved to "adopt, by 2006, and implement national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals".[6] The United Nations Development Group Action Plan (2006-2008) is aimed at assisting 60 developing countries, including the LDCs, to prepare or modify national development strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals. Some LDCs are already preparing PRSPs based on the Millennium Development Goals, while others are modifying their PRSPs in order to achieve the Goals.

Commitment 2
Good governance at the national and international levels

15. Peace and security are necessary to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development. Conflicts take a heavy toll on human lives and have a devastating impact on the economy and development efforts. Studies show that the incidence of conflicts in low-income countries is higher than in middle-income countries and much higher than in high-income countries, making LDCs particularly prone to conflict. While worldwide the number of conflicts has decreased dramatically since 1990, half of the conflicts in the last 15 years erupted in the LDCs.[7]

16. The Brussels Programme of Action calls upon the LDCs to pursue national policies and strategies to promote confidence-building and conflict prevention and, in countries affected by war, to promote peaceful settlements of disputes, reconciliation and post-conflict peacebuilding.

17. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in Nairobi on 9 January 2005 between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, has raised the prospects for national reconciliation, the restoration of law and order, the return of refugees and displaced persons, and, ultimately, restoration of development in the country. More than a year later, however, the security situation in the Sudan remains precarious and its tensions with neighbouring Chad threaten peace and stability in the region.

18. Tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia have grown as a result of unresolved issues, in particular the stalemate in the demarcation process under the 2002 decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

19. Elsewhere, there have been some positive developments: the return of the transitional federal government to Somalia; national elections in Burundi; a return to peace in the Central African Republic; the constitutional referendum in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that paved the way to national and provincial elections; presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti; and presidential elections in Liberia which led to the election of the first female African Head of State.

20. Women gained 27 per cent in the Upper House and 22 per cent in the Lower House of the Parliament of Afghanistan. In provincial councils, Afghan women have secured 29 per cent of membership. As part of its commitment to the Bonn process, Afghanistan adopted a five-year National Drug Control Strategy and developed the National Development Strategy aimed at poverty reduction, employment generation, improvement of social services, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development and private sector development. Its "Justice for All" reform is aimed at establishing a fair and transparent justice system, including the reconstruction and reform of the correctional system and strengthening the rule of law.

21. Post-conflict LDCs face enormous challenges in their transition to peace and can relapse into conflict within five years if they do not receive timely and adequate aid and policy advice.[8] Ironically, aid to post-conflict countries tends to decrease precisely when it could become effective for building the foundations for long-term development. At the same time, post-conflict countries often have difficulty in absorbing large amounts of development aid and demonstrating strong governance performance often required to qualify for external development assistance.[9]

Commitment 3
Building human and institutional capacities

22. Direct donor support to the social sector has resulted in positive changes on several social indicators of LDCs. Thus, most of LDCs for which data are available are making progress towards universal primary enrolment and most LDCs improved gender equality in primary education. Gender disparities increase with the level of education, however; data for 21 LDCs show high gender disparity in secondary education, with girls exceeding boys in six countries. There is even higher disparity in tertiary education, with girls' enrolment being less than half that of boys in more than 50 per cent of the countries (see annex II, table 4.A).

23. Data on adult literacy in the LDCs is sparse, but the target of 50 per cent adult literacy improvement by 2015 has been met or is likely to be met for women in 26 of 33 LDCs with data. For men, the target has been, or is likely to be, met in only 10 of 32 LDCs with trend data (see annex II, table 4.B).

24. Very high infant and under-five child mortality persist in one third of the LDCs as a result of severe malnutrition, diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and conflicts. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 11 out of 20 countries with the highest under-five mortality rates in the world have experienced major armed conflict since 1990. All those 11 countries are LDCs.

25. Four LDCs (Cape Verde, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) have already met the goal of reducing the infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and a further 13 are making substantial progress to meeting that goal by the target date of 2015. A further 18 LDCs are making some progress in that direction but there is minimal progress or reversals in the 15 remaining LDCs (see annex II, table 3).

26. Three LDCs (Cape Verde, Samoa and Vanuatu) have already met the target of reducing the under-five morality rate below 45 per 1,000 live births and a further 13 are making substantial progress towards that target. Twenty other LDCs are making progress but seem unlikely to meet the target by 2015 while the remaining 14 LDCs are lagging even further behind (ibid.).

27. Maternal mortality in the LDCs remains the highest (890 deaths per 100,000 live births) in the world and is very high or high in 45 of these countries. Despite the magnitude of the problem and the fact that solutions are available, only five LDCs (Cape Verde, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) are close to achieving the target of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015.

28. Insufficient care during pregnancy and delivery is largely responsible for maternal and child mortality. Ironically, the LDCs with the highest fertility rates (just under 5 children per woman) have the lowest rates of skilled care at delivery. Only about one third of all deliveries in the LDCs are attended by skilled personnel, compared to 59 per cent in other developing countries. Seven LDCs have a skilled attendance rate of over 85 per cent and a further 17 LDCs have skilled attendance rates of over 50 per cent and may be able to meet the target of universal coverage by 2015. A significant breakthrough is needed, however, to reach that goal in the remaining 26 countries (ibid.).

29. Some improvement has been achieved in antenatal care coverage. Among 45 LDCs for which data are available, 35 should be able to meet the target of universal antenatal care by skilled health personnel. Rapid expansion of service delivery is needed to make significant progress towards the goal in the remaining countries (ibid.).

30. Policies aimed at reducing population growth have resulted in progress in the use of contraceptives in 21 of the 25 LDCs with trend data, although rates remain low in many cases. HIV/AIDS prevention policies, including information/education campaigns, have also contributed to increased condom use.

31. Data suggest that, although the rate of new HIV/AIDS cases (3.2 per cent) in the most affected LDCs remains the highest in the world, it has begun to decline slightly as a result of HIV/AIDS prevention policies and programmes over the past 10 years. With the expansion of HIV/AIDS programmes, deaths are also declining so that the prevalence rate may stabilize or even decrease in the future. Significant investments in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment are needed, however, to consolidate this emerging trend (see annex II, table 6).

32. The prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) and TB-related death rates has declined substantially in some LDCs but has remained high, and even increased, in the majority of countries. Much of the increase is the result of HIV/AIDS infection which weakens the human immune system (see annex II, table 7).

33. There has been a reduction in malaria prevalence in 15 LDCs but deterioration in 13 among 30 LDCs with trend data. Deaths from malaria occur mainly in Central Africa and in Myanmar, with very high (2,000 and over) deaths in 10 LDCs and a high number (500-1,999) of deaths in 9 among 33 LDCs with data during the period 2000-2003. Twenty-three out of 30 LDCs for which data are available are now able to treat at least 25 per cent of children with fever with anti-malarial drugs. Progress in the use of insecticide-treated nets has been slow but they have been successfully introduced in 11 LDCs (ibid.). Remarkably, Tanzania has started production of the

bed nets, causing the price to drop from $15 to $2 per net and their use of ITNs in some districts to increase from 2 to 25 per cent.[10]

34. Data suggest significant improvement in access to potable water: 58 per cent of the population in LDCs has access to improved water. Disparities remain, however, between rural and urban areas. In urban areas, 45 LDCs have already met, or seem likely to meet, the target for access to improved water by 2015, but little progress has been observed in the remaining 5 countries. In contrast, there has been almost no change in the extent of access to improved water in rural areas (see annex II, table 8).

35. Some improvement has been achieved in the access to improved sanitation. Twenty-one LDCs seem likely to achieve the sanitation target in urban areas and 16 LDCs in rural areas but there has been little progress in the remainder (ibid.).

36. Because of extreme poverty, rapid population and urbanization growth, poor housing and urban policies, the number of people living in slum conditions in the LDCs is increasing by almost 5 per cent annually; more than double the rate in other developing countries. Nearly 140 million people in LDCs or a quarter of their urban population live in poor housing conditions.

37. Despite some improvements, social indicators of LDCs remain the lowest in the world. These countries have the highest infant, child and maternal mortality rate, the highest HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria incidence and prevalence rates, the lowest school enrolment and adult literacy rates, the highest fertility and population growth rates, the highest undernourishment and extreme poverty rates, the shortest life expectancy at birth and the poorest housing conditions.

Commitment 4
Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries

38. The Brussels Programme of Action emphasizes that the capacity of LDCs to accelerate growth and sustainable development is impeded by their structural and supply-side constraints, including low productivity. Among the critical factors required to enhance productive capacity, it mentions stable macroeconomic conditions, a conducive legal and regulatory framework, adequate institutional, physical and social infrastructure and a vibrant private sector.

39. Some 72 per cent of the population of the LDCs lives in rural areas and 69 per cent of the population depends on agriculture for their employment, income and food security. This concentration in rural areas makes agriculture and rural development ideal targets for poverty reduction in the LDCs.

40. Despite the importance of agriculture for their economies, the LDCs have moved from being net agricultural exporters to net agricultural importers as the share of agricultural exports has declined and agricultural imports, mostly food, have almost tripled in their total imports. Price spikes and drought have increased food insecurity in food-importing LDCs and make them spend a large proportion of their foreign exchange earnings on the purchase of food. Large expenditures on imports of food reduce the ability of the LDCs to pay for other essential imports and may raise their external debt. Furthermore, they may undermine their long-term

development by diverting resources from investment in the diversification of agriculture and in rural development and from social sectors.

41. The share of processed products in the agricultural exports of the LDCs has increased slightly but lack of access to agricultural technology, weak human and institutional capacity and lack of access to credit and market information hamper further agricultural diversification and undermine the competitiveness of the LDCs in international markets for agricultural products. Official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture in the LDCs has been falling in relative terms and the private sector has not filled the gap; foreign direct investment in agriculture is almost non-existent. The situation is exacerbated by the highly volatile international markets for agricultural products and by the agricultural subsidies of the developed countries.[11]

42. The Programme of Action underscores that reliable physical infrastructure "is essential for efficient operation of existing productive assets and enterprises, attracting new investment, and assuring meaningful economic development" of the LDCs. To that end, it recommended that road and railway connections in LDCs should be increased to the level of other developing countries by 2010.

43. Data from 32 LDCs suggest that road length has been increased by at least 20 per cent since 1990 in 13 countries, but that there was a decline in road length in 6 countries in that period. At the same time, the proportion of roads that are paved remains very low. Railways are also limited in relation to the population and geographical size of almost all LDCs; only 4 LDCs (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, the Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania) report the extensive use of railways for freight (see annex II, table 10).

44. The Programme of Action also recommends modernizing and expanding ports and airports and their ancillary facilities by 2010 to enhance the trading capacities of the LDCs. It is not possible to assess progress on port facilities and their use in the LDCs owing to the lack of standardized indicators. Air service is very limited in most LDCs and both air freight and aircraft departures are declining (ibid.).

45. In 2003-2004, only four LDCs had met or were expected to meet the target of five telephone lines per 1,000 inhabitants by 2010; very few of the remaining LDCs were expected to meet that target, despite the progress achieved since 1990. Taking main lines and cellular subscribers together, in all but two LDCs with data, access per 100 population has at least doubled and, in many, increased by three to fivefold from 2000 to 2004. Eight LDCs had 10 or more lines per 100 population in 2003-2004 and 10 more LDCs are in a position to reach that level soon. Acceleration in 17 other LDCs can put them on track to the target but the prospects for the remaining 14 countries are less promising, despite strong growth in the number of cellular subscribers (see annex II, table 9).

46. In 2000, there were only seven LDCs with one or more Internet connections per 100 population. Since then, the number of Internet users has grown by 3 to 10 times or more in most LDCs although Internet users are still below 1 per 100 in half the LDCs (ibid.).

47. Post offices, especially in rural areas, play an important role in LDCs where they are used not only for post but also financial services (payment of public utilities bills, taxes and money transfers, etc.) and provide access to information. Efficient and affordable financial services and international money transfers provided by post offices can stimulate social and economic development and

contribute to poverty reduction in LDCs. However, data show that, in all but 8 of 47 LDCs for which data are available, access to postal services has been steadily declining since 1990 (ibid.).

Commitment 5
Enhancing the role of trade in development

48. Despite the importance of trade for growth and sustainable development, the share of the LDCs in world trade remained marginal in 2004: less than 0.7 per cent, including oil exports but only slightly above 0.3 per cent if oil exports are excluded. The value of the exports of oil-exporting LDCs grew by over 50 per cent in 2004, far more rapidly than that of manufacture- and mineral-exporting LDCs. Although LDCs accounted only for 0.4 per cent of world exports of services in 2004, trade in services accounted for more than half of total export earnings in such countries as Ethiopia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

49. The United States of America and the European Union remain the major export markets for the LDCs, but 38 per cent of LDC exports in 2004 were absorbed by developing countries. China alone accounted for 18 per cent of all LDC exports. At the 2005 World Summit, China announced that it would grant duty-free access to certain products from the 39 LDCs with which it has diplomatic relations. Similarly, at the sixth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005, Brazil and India also announced duty- and quota-free market access for products from LDCs.

50. A further important step was the establishment by the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference of a date of 2008 or no later than the implementation period for the start of duty-free and quota-free market access for all LDC exports, although it was agreed that the target would be only 97 per cent of products of LDCs for those developed countries which are not in a position to do so. Considerable effort and strong political will, will be needed, however, to achieve the WTO goals by the agreed date since duty-free market access for products originating in LDCs has increased by only 2 percentage points from 1996 to 2004.

51. Within the total, the average tariffs of developed countries on imports of agricultural goods, clothing and textiles from LDCs have declined consistently since 1996, reaching 3.4 per cent, 2.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent, respectively, in 2004.[12] Recognizing that tariff and non-tariff barriers, notably rules of origin and product standards, are serious obstacles to market entry for LDCs, the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference called on developed countries "to ensure that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are transparent and simple and contribute to facilitating market access".[13]

52. Supply-side constraints, such as poor transportation systems, particularly roads and ports, inefficient customs procedures, weak quality control and regulatory systems, and a lack of trade facilitation and export promotion, often impede the ability of LDCs to benefit fully from preferences. Improving supply capacities has been one of the major objectives of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs launched by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, WTO, the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD and UNDP in 1997.[14]

53. As of 30 September 2005, 40 LDCs were at various stages of the Integrated Framework. Cumulative pledges to the Integrated Framework have reached $34.6 million, and 94.8 per cent of those pledges have been translated into contributions to the Integrated Framework Trust Fund. For the first time, pledges and contributions for capacity-building projects (Window II) have surpassed contributions for the financing of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (Window I).

54. At its 2005 WTO Conference the Ministers resolved "to make the Integrated Framework more effective and timely in addressing the trade-related development needs of LDCs" and requested a Task Force of donors and LDCs to provide, by April 2006, recommendations to the General Council on how to: (a) provide increased, predictable, and additional funding on a multi-year basis; (b) strengthen the Integrated Framework at the country level, including through mainstreaming trade into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies; and (c) improve the Integrated Framework decision-making and management structure to ensure the effective and timely delivery of the increased financial resources and programmes.

55. The Ministers further decided that the enhanced Integrated Framework should enter into force no later than 31 December 2006, and urged development partners to significantly increase their contributions to the Integrated Framework Trust Fund. It was also recognized that the broader Aid for Trade programme should assist developing countries, particularly the LDCs, to address supply-side constraints and trade-related infrastructure needs and to expand their trade.

56. Total official development assistance (ODA) commitments of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (DAC/OECD) to trade capacity-building in LDCs grew from $1.4 billion in 2002 to $2.2 billion in 2003 and $2.3 billion in 2004. LDCs are the primary beneficiaries of the trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities of the United Nations system organizations and agencies, notably UNCTAD. In particular, LDCs continue to benefit from such UNCTAD projects and programmes as the Automated System for Customs Data, a computerized customs management system,[15] the Advanced Cargo Information System, UNCTAD/International Chamber of Commerce Investment Guides, Investment Policy Reviews and Good Governance in Investment Promotion, commodity-related projects, Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and other African Countries,[16] and technical assistance activities related to trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy.

57. Preferential trade is crucial for commodity-dependent LDCs. According to an UNCTAD study, however, nearly half of all exports of goods from LDCs under market access preferences originated in only 11 countries and related to only 17 product categories in 2003. At the same time, nearly 20 primary commodities of importance to LDCs (accounting for 59.5 per cent of their total exports of goods and services) are exported to markets in the European Union, Japan and the United States of America without enjoying preferential treatment, as those products are exported on a most favoured nation (MFN) duty-free basis or are subject to a very low MFN tariff. About 18 products, from fresh fish to automobile parts, have been exported by LDCs under significant preferential margins to the same markets.[17]

58. The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD recently acknowledged that some LDCs "could be affected by the erosion of preferences involving certain

products of export interest to them". The Board called for "intensified international support measures to enable LDCs to enhance their productive capacities, diversify their economies into non-preference-dependent activities, and improve their utilization of market access preferences made available to them". It concluded that "such international support measures could also aim at addressing any adverse effects of further multilateral trade liberalization on LDCs".

59. Despite the adoption by its General Council of accession proceedings in 2002, accession to WTO remains a long and cumbersome process. Some 32 LDCs are currently members of WTO but only 2 have joined it since the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action in 2001. Ten LDCs remain at various stages of accession. Six WTO-aspiring LDCs have been assisted by UNCTAD and have benefited from technical cooperation and various capacity-building activities tailored to their specific economic conditions and needs.

Commitment 6
Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

60. Many LDCs are encountering so-called forced environmental degradation, a situation in which "inadequate man-made capital stock, stagnant technology, lack of employment opportunities and the inability to cater for basic human needs, combined with a growing population, force the economy into a state where survival necessitates eating into natural or environmental stock".[18] Land degradation (desertification), deforestation and loss of biological diversity associated with "forced environmental degradation", in turn, further exacerbate extreme poverty in LDCs.

61. Forests occupy less than 4 billion hectares, or 30 per cent of total land area in the world, but deforestation, mainly the conversion of forests to agricultural land, reduced that coverage by 13 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2005.[19] Almost 50 per cent of the world's loss of forests during that period took place in LDCs, with nearly every LDC encountering at least some unsustainable forest loss. Extremely high levels of deforestation are observed in the Comoros (58 per cent), Burundi (47 per cent), Togo (44 per cent) and Afghanistan (34 per cent).

62. Although LDCs are not responsible for substantial release of greenhouse gases, they are heavily exposed to such adverse consequences of global warming and climate change as drought, sea level rise, floods and monsoon-like rains, air and water pollution, loss of biological diversity and damage to ecosystems.

63. Recurrent droughts and severe land degradation have reduced agricultural production and increased food insecurity in many LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa. According to estimates of the World Food Programme (WFP), almost 3.5 million people in Southern Africa were in need of emergency food aid in 2005. Drought increased that number to 8.3 million people, including 1.6 million in Malawi, 1.2 million in Zambia and 900,000 in Mozambique. Almost 11 million people were in need of food in the Horn of Africa, including in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

64. Changes in farming systems, the introduction of crops resistant to high temperature, additional inputs, such as fertilizers and increased irrigation, could mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and increase agricultural productivity.

Fertilizers are expensive and agriculture is mainly rain-fed in Africa, however, where only 4 per cent of all agricultural land is under irrigation.[20]

65. The adverse impact of climate change is exacerbated by the lack of adapting strategies and of the institutional, economic and financial capacity of LDCs to support such actions. In accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventh Conference of the Parties held in 2001 in Marrakech, Morocco, has established the LDCs Fund, in order to assist LDCs in adapting to the impact of the climate change. Under the arrangement, each LDC is provided with $200,000 for its National Adaptation Programme of Action. As of April 2005, contributions to the LDCs Fund amounted to around $33 million, of which $12 million was meant for the preparation of the programmes of action and $21 million for their implementation.[21] As of March 2005, three LDCs had completed national adaptation programmes of action, 17 LDCs were preparing them and projects for their preparation had been approved for 20 more LDCs.

66. For small island LDCs, in particular low-lying island states like Kiribati, the Maldives and Tuvalu, the sea level rise that is expected as a result of climate change will give rise to a loss of beaches, salination of soil and freshwater, increased stress on coastal ecosystems and damage to infrastructure. Higher sea levels can disrupt economic and social development, destroy human livelihoods, cause the displacement of settlements and jeopardize the very existence of small island developing States.

Commitment 7
Mobilizing financial resources

67. The Brussels Programme of Action emphasizes that ODA will remain a critical resource for achieving its objectives, goals and targets. It recommends improving aid volumes and aid effectiveness and increasing national ownership through better integration of external aid into macroeconomic and sectoral programmes.

68. Total ODA to LDCs from the developed countries reached $23.5 billion in 2004, an increase of 11 per cent over 2003. The largest donors were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. ODA as a share of the gross national income (GNI) of DAC/OECD countries remained at the 2003 level of 0.08 per cent, but for the European Union countries it decreased from 0.13 per cent in 2003 to 0.12 per cent in 2004. Out of 22 donors, seven (Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden) have met the 0.20 per cent target for ODA to LDCs as a share of their GNI and three (Belgium, France, United Kingdom) are expected to meet it in 2010 (see annex II, table 11).

69. The top recipients of ODA from the developed countries in 2004 were Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Asia and the Pacific and Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia in Africa.

70. The main uses of developed countries' bilateral ODA flows to the LDCs were social infrastructure and services, debt relief and emergency assistance. Almost 90 per cent of ODA to LDCs was provided as grants and 91 per cent complied with the 2001 DAC Recommendation on Untying Official Development Assistance to the

Least Developed Countries. The recent OECD/DAC decision on untying the remaining aid would imply an additional $440 million in small (up to $1 million) projects in LDCs.[22]

71. The Brussels Programme of Action emphasizes that the "external debt overhang in the majority of LDCs constitutes a serious obstacle to their development efforts and economic growth". It recommends a number of policies and measures to address that problem, including the "full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative".

72. As of August 2005, 13 LDCs had reached the completion point under the HIPC Initiative and 9 more were "floating", pending agreement on arrangements for the delivery of HIPC debt relief (see annex I, table 12). On 6 January 2006, it was agreed that 12 of the 13 LDCs which had reached the decision point and Cambodia, a non-HIPC LDC, qualified for and will receive, through IDA, starting from 1 July 2006, 100 per cent debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of the IMF, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. On 23 April 2006, nine additional LDCs (six of those "ring-fenced" at the end of 2004 and three new) were recommended for debt relief under the enhanced HIPC Initiative.[23]

73. Notwithstanding those achievements, implementation of the HIPC Initiative has been slow. Of $11.1 billion committed by IMF and the World Bank to the LDCs for the HIPC Initiative, only $1.4 billion had been delivered by August 2005.

74. The Brussels Programme of Action emphasizes "a complementary and catalytic role" of foreign direct investment and other private external flows for export growth, technology and skills transfer, employment and poverty eradication in the LDCs. Data suggest that net foreign direct investment in the LDCs increased sharply between 1990 and 2004, with inflows in 2004 exceeding 5 per cent of GDP in eight countries (Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritania, the Sudan and Zambia), of which three are oil-exporting countries, compared to only two countries (Liberia and Zambia) in 1990. The number of countries with outflows or net inflows of less than 1 per cent of GDP dropped from 25 to 11 (annex II, see table 1).

75. Migrant workers' remittances constitute a significant share of GDP in Lesotho (25.8 per cent), Haiti (24.8 per cent), Samoa (12.4 per cent), Nepal (11.7 per cent), Kiribati (11.3 per cent) and Yemen (10 per cent). In absolute terms, Bangladesh, with $3.4 billion, ranks fourteenth among the world's remittance-receiving countries. The Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Enhancing the Development Impact of Remittances, held on 9 and 10 February 2006 in Cotonou and organized by the Government of Benin, with the support of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), recognized the private nature of remittances, underscored their positive impact on poverty eradication at the household, community and national levels and adopted a set of recommendations on enhancing their development impact in LDCs.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

76. Despite improved economic performance, extreme poverty appears to be decreasing in very few LDCs and increasing in many. In an unprecedented reversal of historical trends, life expectancy is declining in several LDCs in Africa, most affected by HIV/AIDS and civil strife. Other social indicators, including gender equality, are improving in many LDCs, in a large degree, owing to donor direct support to the social sectors. Nonetheless, very few LDCs will be able to meet the objectives, goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action, if current trends persist.

77. Development and poverty reduction in the LDCs are constrained by many factors: the structural weaknesses of their economies; their limited human, institutional, technical, trade and productive capacity; inadequate infrastructure, limited capability to mobilize domestic and attract external resources; unsustainable external debt; high vulnerability to external economic shocks; natural disasters; and the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. High population growth, rapid urbanization and environmental degradation aggravate extreme poverty in the LDCs. Climate change is emerging as a new challenge for sustainable development in the LDCs, in particular those in Africa and the small islands.

78. **The Governments of post-conflict LDCs should demonstrate a continuous commitment to the peace process, ensure public law and order, develop an independent judicial system, guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, ensure voice and participation of the poor in decision-making, provide transparency and accountability in public administration, procurement and budget management, including the equitable management of natural resources revenues, and ensure equal access to basic social services. They should also reduce military spending, which is usually not only ineffective in deterring insurgencies but also increases the risk of conflicts. Since conflicts are often prompted by social exclusion, it is important to involve women, civil society and the private sector in the post-conflict recovery. Donors should make long-term commitments to the recovery of post-conflict LDCs.**

79. **Achieving the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action to halve poverty and hunger in LDCs by 2015 requires accelerated and sustained economic growth that is both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. To that end, the national development strategies of LDCs should promote not only modernization of the core economy but also include (a) technological change in subsistence activities; (b) universal access to social services; and (c) the creation of meaningful employment through a new approach to rural development and through the development of non-tradable goods and services sectors. As an integral part of all such efforts, Governments should ensure that women equally contribute to, and benefit from accelerated and sustained growth.**

80. **Poverty reduction and national development strategies of the LDCs must include an employment strategy aimed at promoting decent work under the conditions of equality, security and dignity. Specific policies and measures should be adopted to expand the formal sector and integrate informal enterprises in formal economy through their access to credit, information,**

technology while extending labour standards and social protection to the informal economy and creating an enabling environment for establishing and operating a business.

81. Access to improved water and sanitation must be included in a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of sustainable human settlements in LDCs, along with urban planning, housing development, solid waste management, education and health-care services, transport infrastructure development, employment and enterprise development. A participatory approach and community-based programmes, as well as gender-sensitive policies that ensure full and equal access of women to land, housing, finance and property, should be also embedded in human settlements strategies.

82. The Governments of LDCs and their development partners should implement the "Three Ones" initiative, which provides a framework to ensure national ownership and mobilize international support and resources for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.[24] Donors should provide predictable and sustainable funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

83. National development strategies of LDCs must be attuned to their country-specific conditions and priorities. Building productive capacities requires establishing closer links between production, trade, growth and poverty reduction. This can take a number of different forms, such as: (a) broad-based, export-led growth with increased forward and backward linkages to spread the benefits of growth among the population; (b) a balance between growth based on improved agricultural productivity and export-oriented industrialization; (c) an agricultural-led industrialization strategy supported by infrastructure investment and technological progress in agriculture, with forward linkages to processing activities and including an export component; (d) development and diversification through the management of mineral revenues; (e) development of natural-resource-based production clusters; and (f) the promotion of competitive tradables, employment-intensive non-tradables and technological change in subsistence-oriented activities to reduce constraints on household labour time.[25]

84. LDCs should adopt and their development partners support agricultural reforms, crop and product diversification, improved access to land, market, technology, information, microcredit and microfinance, creating an enabling environment for private sector development and foreign investments, promoting agricultural research, transfer of modern technologies and better utilization of indigenous technologies. Development of high-value agricultural products, competitiveness and export diversification should be integrated in poverty reduction strategies of LDCs. Governments' policies of LDCs should also promote joint titling of land in the names of husband and wife and address gender inequality in formal land titling and customary land tenure.

85. Improving information and communication technology (ICT) access and connectivity in LDCs requires from LDCs and their development partners the fostering of policy and regulatory framework, improving telecommunication infrastructure, lowering costs, market liberalization, human capacity-building, promoting entrepreneurship, public-private partnership, foreign investments and supporting and coordinating international initiatives in favour of the

LDCs. Governments of LDCs should also adopt policies that ensure equal access of women, especially in rural areas, to ICT, in order to increase their potential both as agents and beneficiaries of development.

86. **Improvement of physical infrastructure needs creating incentives for private participation, by establishing macroeconomic stability, freedom to repatriate capital, competitive taxes, contract enforcement, transparency and accountability. It also needs increasing public spending and regional cooperation. Improved road and rail links and streamlined border crossings, in their turn, will significantly reduce transport costs.**

87. **The increase in demand for commodities in the past few years has provided a "window of opportunity" for many LDCs. Governments of LDCs should seize this opportunity by channelling the windfall export incomes into programmes and activities that reduce poverty.**

88. **Trade preferences for LDCs should be made more effective through such measures as improving rules of origin to reflect the production structures of LDCs and promoting triangular relationships between trade preferences, ODA and FDI.**

89. **High concentration of exports in certain products makes some LDCs particularly vulnerable to the erosion of trade preferences. Mitigation of the preference erosion needs deepening existing preferential market access, compensation to LDCs most affected by preference erosion and building their productive capacities to diversify into non-preference areas.**

90. **Turning trade into a true engine of development in LDCs requires mainstreaming trade in poverty reduction and national development strategies, building the necessary human, productive and institutional capacities (including customs facilities and standards compliance), improving infrastructure, strengthening the investment-trade nexus, improving the international trade regime, levelling the playing field for international trade in agricultural commodities, promoting South-South trade, including through regional trade agreements and the Generalized System of Trade Preferences, and strengthening international support, including technical assistance, to LDCs.**

91. **Every effort must be made to ensure the effective implementation of the agreed outcomes of the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference and the successful conclusion of the trade negotiations as part of the Doha Development Agenda.**

92. **Poverty reduction and sustainable development in LDCs calls for sustainable forest management, which takes into account the conservation and use of forests while addressing the daily needs of poor people. Sustainable forest management also requires a change in the patterns of consumption and production of forest products, including improvements in fuel-burning in LDCs.**

93. **Addressing desertification in LDCs needs integrated land and water management, the protection of vegetative cover, a mix of pastoral and cropping land use, a combination of modern technology with traditional knowledge, the participation of local communities and the promotion of alternative livelihoods, including the creation of economic opportunities outside drylands.**

94. **The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2005 was a step towards addressing global warming, but it is important to develop a more inclusive international framework, with broader participation of all major emitters, including agreement on targets for emissions of greenhouse gases beyond 2012.**

95. **Donors should sustain progress achieved in volumes of ODA to LDCs and keep their commitment to achieve the 0.15-0.20 ODA/GNI target by 2010. They should continue improving effectiveness of aid and ensure its predictability and sustainability. LDCs should better integrate aid into their macroeconomic and sectoral programmes and strengthen relevant auditing, accounting and management practices.**

96. **Donors should make further progress towards full cancellation of outstanding external debt by LDCs. National development programmes of LDCs should address debt sustainability within a coherent framework for debt, trade and finance. Strengthening debt management must be an integral part of the framework.**

97. **Further increases in FDI volumes require from LDCs to improve their investment climate (including macroeconomic stability, a supportive legal and regulatory framework, effective labour regulation, a sound banking sector and a functioning domestic capital market), human and institutional capacity-building and infrastructure. Enhancing the development impact of FDI needs diversification into higher value-added exports and invites the transfer of skills, knowledge and technology. Joint ventures should also be pursued, to encourage domestic investment.**

98. **Enhancing the development impact of remittances in LDCs requires a variety of actions, including reducing transfer costs; improving the analysis of remittance flows; building an inclusive financial sector that links remittances to other forms of financial intermediation, like microcredit; engaging diaspora and hometown associations in the national development process; and creating an enabling investment climate.**

99. **Achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action calls for continued commitment and renewed energy from the LDCs and their development partners. The second generation of PRSPs and MDG-based national development strategies should anchor the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in scaled-up investment and operational frameworks to be supported by the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework and PRSP processes. Those strategies can ensure a result-oriented and country-owned approach to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the LDCs and contribute to better alignment, coordination and harmonization of donors' assistance to the LDCs, as well as synergy and coherence between the Millennium Development Goals and the Programme of Action.**

100. **National development strategies of LDCs need to be complemented by "quick-win" type interventions, such as providing fertilizers and seeds to improve crop yields; increasing the availability of anti-malarial bed nets; improving water sources; providing school feeding programmes; making**

deworming available to all; and introducing new technologies, such as energy-saving stoves and mobile phones.

101. **Effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action is impossible without addressing gender gaps in poverty reduction and national development strategies of LDCs.**

Notes

[1] A/CONF.191/11.

[2] General Assembly resolution 59/210 of 20 December 2004.

[3] General Assembly resolution 60/33 of 30 November 2005.

[4] Zimbabwe which had been also found eligible for inclusion in the list of LDCs informed the Committee for Development Policy that it "does not give consent to be downgraded to LDC status".

[5] Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session. See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006* (E/2006/33).

[6] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[7] *Human Security Report 2005*, based on the Uppsala/International Peace Research Institute (PRIO) database (Oxford University Press, New York, 2006).

[8] World Bank (2003), *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy*. Policy Research Report, Washington, D.C.

[9] P. Collier and A. Hoeffer (2002), *Aid, Policy and Growth in Post-Conflict Countries*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.

[10] World Bank (2004), *The Millennium Development Goals for Health: Rising to the Challenge*.

[11] See *State of Food and Agriculture 2005*, FAO Agriculture Series No. 36, Rome, 2005.

[12] WTO data.

[13] WT/MIN(05)DEC of 22 December 2005.

[14] Other Integrated Framework goals are to mainstream trade into the development of LDCs and to integrate them into the multilateral trading system.

[15] Since 2004, new Automated System projects have started in such LDCs as Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

[16] Currently nine LDCs (Benin, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) participate in the Programme.

[17] See UNCTAD document TD/B/52/4.

[18] M. Karshenas (1994), "Environment, technology and employment: towards a new definition of sustainable development", *Development and Change*.

[19] Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005.

[20] World Bank (2006), Reengaging in Agricultural Water Management, Washington, D.C.

[21] *Status Report on the Least Developed Countries Trust Fund for Climate Change and the Special Climate Change Fund* (GEF/C.25/4/Rev.1), 2 May 2005.

[22] OECD (2006), *Development Cooperation Report 2005*.

[23] Additionally, Bhutan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic met the low-income and indebtedness criteria at the end of 2004, but indicated that they would not avail themselves of

the Initiative. No conclusion was reached on the eligibility of Afghanistan owing to unverified or disputed external debt. Myanmar did not provide the data required to assess its indebtedness and eligibility for HIPC.

[24] Launched at a high-level meeting on 25 April 2004, the "Three Ones" initiative promotes three principles: ONE agreed AIDS action framework which provides the basis for coordinating efforts of all stakeholders; ONE national AIDS coordinating authority with a broad-based multisectoral mandate; and ONE agreed country level monitoring and evaluation system.

[25] See details in *The Least Developed Countries Report 2004, Linking International Trade with Poverty Reduction* (UNCTAD/1.DC/2004).

Annex I

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: goals and targets

Goal 1. Attain a GDP growth rate of at least 7 per cent per annum

Indicator

1. Annual percentage growth rate in gross domestic product (GDP) (World Bank)

Goal 2. Increase the ratio of investment to GDP to 25 per cent per annum

Indicator

2. Gross capital formation (as a percentage of GDP) (World Bank)

Goal 3. Make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 1, Target 1)

Indicator

3. Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day consumption[a] (World Bank)

Goal 4. Make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people from hunger by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 1, Target 2)

Indicator

4. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption[a] (FAO)

Goal 5. Making accessible, through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015

Indicator

5. Births attended by skilled health personnel, per cent[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 6. Making available the widest achievable range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable family planning and contraceptive methods

Indicator

6. Contraceptive use among currently married women aged 15-49, any method[a] (UNDP)

Goal 7. Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality (Millennium Development Goal 2, Target 3)

Indicators

7. Net enrolment ratio in primary education, both sexes[a] (UNESCO)

8. Net enrolment ratio in primary education, girls[a] (UNESCO)

9. Net enrolment ratio in primary education, boys[a] (UNESCO)

Goal 8. Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults

Indicators

10. Adult literacy rate, both sexes[a] (UNESCO)

11. Adult literacy rate, women[a] (UNESCO)

12. Adult literacy rate, men[a] (UNESCO)

13. Ratio of literate women to men[a] (UNESCO)

Goal 9. Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality (Millennium Development Goal 3, Target 4)

Indicators

14. Ratio of girls to boys in primary education[a] (UNESCO)

15. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education[a] (UNESCO)

16. Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education[a] (UNESCO)

17. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament[a] (IPU)

18. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector[a] (ILO)

Goal 10. Reducing the infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 4, Target 5)

Indicator

19. Infant mortality rate[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 11. Reducing the under 5 mortality rate below 45 per 1,000 live births by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 4, Target 5)

Indicator

20. Under-five mortality rate[a] (UNICEF-WHO).

Goal 12. Reducing the maternal mortality rate by three quarters of the current rate by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 5, Target 6)

Indicator

21. Maternal mortality ratio[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 13. Reducing the number of undernourished people by half, by the year 2015

See 4 above.

Goal 14. Reducing by half, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water (Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 10)

Indicator

22. Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water sources, both urban and rural[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 15. Reducing HIV infection rates in persons 15-24 years of age by 2005 in all countries, and by 25 per cent in the most affected countries (Millennium Development Goal 6, Target 7)

Indicators

23. HIV prevalence rate among adults, aged 15-49 years[a] (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF)

24. HIV prevalence among pregnant women, aged 15-24 years[a] (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF)

Goal 16. Increasing the percentage of women receiving maternal and prenatal care by 60 per cent

Indicator

25. Women reporting at least one antenatal visit, per cent (UNDP)

Goal 17. Halving malnutrition among pregnant women and among preschool children in LDCs by 2015

Indicator

26. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 18. Substantially reducing infection rates from malaria, tuberculosis and other killer diseases in LDCs by the end of the decade; reducing tuberculosis (TB) deaths and prevalence of the disease by 50 per cent by 2010; and reducing the burden of disease associated with malaria by 50 per cent by 2010 (Millennium Development Goal 6, Target 8)

Indicators

27. Prevalence rate associated with malaria[a] (WHO)

28. Death rate associated with malaria[a] (WHO)

29. Prevalence rate associated with tuberculosis, per 100,000 population[a] (WHO)

30. Death rate associated with tuberculosis, per 100,000 population[a] (WHO)

Goal 19. Promoting child health and survival and reducing disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of excess and preventable mortality among girl infants and children

Indicators

31. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

32. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against tuberculosis[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

33. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against DPT[a] (UNICEF-WHO)

Goal 20. Improving the health and nutritional status of infants and children

See 26, 30, and 31-34.

Goal 21. Promoting breastfeeding as a child survival strategy

Indicator

34. Per cent of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed (UNICEF)

Goal 22. Increasing road networks or connections in LDCs to the current level of other developing countries and urban road capacities, including sewerage and other related facilities, by 2010 (Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 10)

Indicators

35. Roads (km) (World Bank-International Road Federation)

36. Paved (primary) roads (as a percentage of total roads) (World Bank-International Road Federation)

37. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural[a] (UNICEF-WHO).

Goal 23. Modernizing and expanding ports and airports and their ancillary facilities to enhance their capacities by 2010

Indicators

38. Aircraft departures (in thousands) (World Bank-ICAO)

39. Air freight (millions ton-km) (World Bank-ICAO)

Goal 24. Modernizing and expanding railway connections and facilities, increasing their capacities to the level of those in other developing countries by the end of the decade

Indicators

40. Rail lines (km) (World Bank-International Road Transport Union)

41. Rail freight per km (World Bank-International Road Transport Union)

Goal 25. Increasing the communication networks of LDCs, including telecommunication and postal services, and improving access of the poor to such services in urban and rural areas to reach the current levels in other developing countries

Indicator

42. Permanent and mobile post offices (World Bank-IPU)

Goal 26. Increasing computer literacy among students in higher institutions and universities by 50 per cent and in junior and high schools by 25 per cent, by 2015

Goal 27. Increasing average telephone density to 5 main lines per 100 inhabitants and Internet connections to 10 users per 100 inhabitants by the year 2010 (Millennium Development Goal 8, Target 18)

Indicators

43. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population[a] (ITU)

44. Internet users per 100 population[a] (ITU)

Goal 28. Donor countries providing more than 0.20 per cent of their gross national product as ODA to LDCs: continue to do so and increase their efforts (Millennium Development Goal 8, Target 13)

Indicator

45. Net ODA total to the LDCs, as a percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income[a] (OECD)

Goal 29. Other donor countries which have met the 0.15 per cent target: undertake to reach 0.20 per cent expeditiously

See 45 above.

Goal 30. All other donor countries which have committed themselves to the 0.15 per cent target: reaffirm their commitment and undertake either to achieve the target within the next five years or to make their best efforts to accelerate their endeavours to reach the target.

See 45 above.

Notes

[a] A Millennium Development Goal indicator.

Annex II

Statistical data specific to individual countries

Table 1
Economic growth and fixed capital formation

	GDP average annual growth in constant US dollars, per cent			*Per capita GDP in constant US dollars*		*Per capita GDP in current US dollars*	*Gross fixed capital formation as percentage of GDP*	*Foreign direct investment, net inflows, as percentage of GDP*		*Total population (thousands)*	*Population rate of growth, per cent per year*
Least developed countries	*1990-1995*	*1995-2000*	*2000-2004*	*1990*	*2004*	*2004*	*2003-2004*	*1990*	*2004*	*2004*	*2000-2005*
Africa											
Angola[a,b]	-4.20	6.11	8.61	977	1 004	1 309	12	-3.3	7.4	15 490	2.83
Benin	4.01	5.31	4.89	356	430	500	20	3.4	1.5	8 177	3.18
Burkina Faso	4.93	5.23	5.77	335	458	348	19	0.0	0.7	12 822	3.17
Burundi[a]	-2.12	-1.21	2.87	203	149	93	15	0.1	0.5	7 282	3.03
Cape Verde	5.21	8.36	5.11	867	1 462	1 947	28	..	..	495	2.35
Central African Republic[a]	0.75	2.51	-1.44	432	361	330	6	0.1	-1.0	3 986	1.33
Chad[b]	4.26	2.46	14.99	254	396	426	38	0.5	11.3	9 448	3.42
Comoros	-0.55	0.04	2.13	475	341	427	21	..	..	777	2.65
Democratic Republic of the Congo[a]	-7.25	-3.91	3.43	248	108	115	19	-0.2	0.0	55 853	3.02
Djibouti	2.07	0.40	3.03	819	747	852	16	..	..	779	2.09
Equatorial Guinea[b]	6.30	34.20	25.81	462	4 899	7 845	64	..	..	492	2.30
Eritrea[a]	..	0.84	3.61	..	342	187	22	0.0	3.2	4 232	4.26
Ethiopia[a]	2.18	5.32	4.07	159	182	106	22	0.1	6.8	75 600	2.44
Gambia	2.51	5.54	3.99	356	391	281	19	4.5	14.5	1 478	2.85
Guinea	3.74	4.26	2.95	453	509	421	11	0.6	2.6	9 202	2.17
Guinea-Bissau	3.95	-1.45	-1.40	230	162	176	13	0.8	1.8	1 540	3.00
Lesotho	3.98	2.86	3.24	388	547	764	44	2.8	9.4	1 798	0.08
Liberia[a]	-22.50	34.53	-2.22	180	134	146	10	58.6	4.1	3 241	1.37
Madagascar	-0.33	3.85	1.83	256	217	222	19	0.7	1.0	18 113	2.78
Malawi	5.32	2.39	1.69	185	217	165	7	1.2	0.9	12 608	2.25
Mali	3.80	4.11	6.66	282	365	377	18	0.2	3.7	13 124	2.98
Mauritania	4.84	4.35	4.28	503	635	416	14	0.7	19.6	2 980	2.98
Mozambique[a]	1.92	7.92	9.52	202	323	328	15	0.4	4.0	19 424	2.00
Niger	1.53	2.78	4.06	296	269	199	15	1.7	0.0	13 499	3.39
Rwanda[a]	-8.49	10.17	5.09	358	363	205	18	0.3	0.4	8 882	2.38
Sao Tome and Principe	1.44	2.10	4.77	493	540	447	52	..	..	153	2.28
Senegal	1.41	5.38	4.75	714	840	672	23	1.0	0.9	11 386	2.39

Least developed countries	GDP average annual growth in constant US dollars, per cent			Per capita GDP in constant US dollars		Per capita GDP in current US dollars	Gross fixed capital formation as percentage of GDP	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, as percentage of GDP		Total population (thousands)	Population rate of growth, per cent per year
	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2004	1990	2004	2004	2003-2004	1990	2004	2004	2000-2005
Sierra Leone[a]	-5.39	-3.73	6.25	159	97	196	17	4.9	2.4	5 336	4.07
Somalia[a]	-7.20	1.73	3.02	149	105	262	20	0.6	..	7 964	3.20
Sudan[a,b]	4.77	1.64	6.55	626	811	562	32	-0.2	7.2	35 523	1.93
Togo	1.19	1.61	2.56	396	333	348	20	1.1	2.9	5 988	2.72
Uganda[a]	7.45	6.45	5.82	206	322	280	22	-0.1	3.3	27 821	3.40
United Republic of Tanzania	3.99	7.23	6.71	144	224	297	18	0.0	2.3	37 627	1.95
Zambia	-2.03	2.72	4.00	487	429	463	25	6.2	6.2	11 479	1.73
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan[a]	-6.44	-8.92	9.72	299	99	184	22	..	..	28 574	4.59
Bangladesh	4.49	5.34	5.28	306	454	443	24	0.0	7.8	139 215	1.91
Bhutan	5.57	6.45	6.87	173	315	368	46	..	..	2 116	2.19
Cambodia	6.45	5.09	5.17	174	264	316	22	0.0	2.7	13 798	1.98
Kiribati	4.09	5.64	1.79	396	504	815	8	..	..	97	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6.41	6.17	5.72	186	305	419	25	0.7	0.7	5 792	2.31
Maldives	6.68	8.34	6.94	1 000	1 810	2 345	36	..	..	321	2.52
Myanmar[a]	5.84	8.28	6.12	127	260	219	11	..	..	50 004	1.14
Nepal[a]	5.19	4.82	2.45	184	238	245	19	0.2	0.0	26 591	2.10
Samoa	0.08	3.92	3.71	1 247	1 541	1 968	40	..	..	184	0.83
Solomon Islands	7.68	-2.38	-0.88	657	553	585	19	..	..	466	2.64
Timor-Leste[a]	1.12	-4.57	3.74	244	197	370	27	..	..	887	5.42
Tuvalu	3.04	1.90	5.50	1 012	1 451	2 141	56	..	..	10	..
Vanuatu	4.54	1.29	-0.31	1 023	969	1 405	29	..	..	207	1.98
Yemen	4.85	5.86	3.98	335	393	643	14	-2.7	1.1	20 329	3.13
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti[a]	-4.05	2.06	-1.58	381	263	471	13	0.3	0.2	8 407	1.43

Sources: Gross domestic product calculations by United Nations OHRLLS, based on United Nations Statistics Division, *National Accounts Main Aggregates Database*, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp; United Nations Population series from United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects — The 2004 Revision*, print and CD-ROM (United Nations publication, Sales No. 05.XIII.5); foreign direct investment from World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2006*, table 5.1 (Washington, D.C., in press).

[a] Refers to a country significantly affected by civil strife, war or natural disaster during the period 1995-2003.

[b] Refers to an oil-exporting country.

Table 2
Poverty and hunger

Least developed countries	*Per capita consumption less than $1 (PPP) per day, percentage of population*		*Proportion of population which is undernourished*		*Percentage difference in proportion of population under-nourished*		*Life expectancy at birth, years*		*Change in life expectancy at birth (years)*
	1990-1996	*1997-2004*	*1990-1992*	*2000-2003*	*1990-1992*	*2000-2003*	*1990-1995*	*2000-2005*	*1990-2005*
Africa									
Angola	..	..	58	38	-20		39.8	40.7	0.9
Benin	..	31.0	20	14	-6		53.5	53.8	0.3
Burkina Faso	63.0	27.0	21	17	-4		46.8	47.4	0.6
Burundi	45.0	55.0	48	67	19		42.4	43.5	1.0
Cape Verde	..	..	..	..	..		66.4	70.2	3.8
Central African Republic	67.0	..	50	45	-5		46.7	39.4	-7.3
Chad	..	..	58	33	-25		46.2	43.6	-2.5
Comoros	..	..	..	..	..		57.9	63.0	5.0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	..	..	32	72	40		44.7	43.1	-1.6
Djibouti	..	..	..	..	..		51.2	52.7	1.5
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..		45.9	43.5	-2.4
Eritrea	..	..	..	73	..		49.4	53.5	4.1
Ethiopia	31.0	23.0	..	46	..		47.2	47.6	0.4
Gambia	54.0	59.0	22	27	5		51.4	55.5	4.1
Guinea	..	..	39	24	-15		48.7	53.6	4.9
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..		43.0	44.6	1.6
Lesotho	39.5	..	17	12	-5		58.3	36.7	-21.6
Liberia	..	..	35	49	14		40.5	42.5	2.0
Madagascar	46.0	61.0	35	8	-27		52.0	55.3	3.3
Malawi	..	42.0	50	34	-16		45.2	39.6	-5.6
Mali	72.0	..	29	28	-1		46.7	47.8	1.0
Mauritania	39.0	26.0	15	10	-5		49.4	52.5	3.1
Mozambique	38.0	..	66	45	-21		43.6	41.9	-1.7
Niger	51.5	..	41	32	-9		40.6	44.3	3.7
Rwanda	..	52.0	44	36	-8		23.6	43.6	20.0
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	..		62.0	62.9	0.9
Senegal	33.5	..	23	23	0		54.1	55.6	1.5
Sierra Leone	..	..	47	50	3		38.4	40.6	2.2
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..		39.7	46.2	6.5
Sudan	..	..	32	27	-5		53.4	56.3	3.0

Least developed countries	Per capita consumption less than $1 (PPP) per day, percentage of population		Proportion of population which is undernourished		Percentage difference in proportion of population under-nourished		Life expectancy at birth, years		Change in life expectancy at birth (years)
	1990-1996	1997-2004	1990-1992	2000-2003	1990-1992	2000-2003	1990-1995	2000-2005	1990-2005
Togo	..	..	33	25		-8	57.7	54.2	-3.4
Uganda	86.0	85.0	24	19		-5	43.6	46.8	3.2
United Republic of Tanzania	49.0	58.0	37	44		7	52.4	46.0	-6.4
Zambia	70.7	76.0	48	47		-1	43.4	37.4	-6.0
Asia and Pacific									
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..		..	45.5	46.0	0.5
Bangladesh	30.7	36.0	35	30		-5	56.3	62.6	6.3
Bhutan	..	..	..	..		..	55.9	62.7	6.8
Cambodia	..	55.0	43	33		-10	55.0	56.0	0.9
Kiribati	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	8.0	27.0	29	21		-8	50.8	54.5	3.7
Maldives	..	..	..	..		..	61.0	66.3	5.3
Myanmar	..	..	10	5		-5	56.7	60.1	3.3
Nepal	39.0	..	20	17		-3	55.9	61.4	5.5
Samoa	..	..	..	..		..	66.0	70.0	4.1
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..		..	60.9	62.2	1.3
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..		..	47.8	55.1	7.3
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..		..	65.1	68.4	3.3
Yemen	4.0	16.0	34	37		3	55.7	60.3	4.7
Latin America and the Caribbean									
Haiti	..	54.0	65	47		-18	48.2	51.5	3.2

Sources: Poverty: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2006* (Washington, D.C., in press), table 2.5, and United Nations Statistics Division, *Millennium Indicators Database*, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp, indicator 1 (accessed 1 February 2006); hunger: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2005: Eradicating world hunger-key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (Rome, 2005); life expectancy: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*, print and CD-ROM (United Nations publication, sales No. 05.XIII.5).

Table 3
Reproductive health and health services

Least developed countries	*Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel* 1996/2004	*Percentage of women reporting at least one antenatal visit to a skilled practitioner* 1996/2004	*Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)** 2000	*Percentage of contraceptive use among currently married women aged 15-49, any method* 1990/1995	1996/2004
Africa					
Angola	45	66	1 700	8	6
Benin	66	81	850	16	19
Burkina Faso	38	73	1 000	8	14
Burundi	25	78	1 000	..	16
Cape Verde	89	99	150	..	53
Central African Republic	44	62	1 100	15	28
Chad	16	42	1 100	..	8
Comoros	62	74	480	21	26
Democratic Republic of the Congo	61	68	990	8	31
Djibouti	61	67	730	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	65	86	880	..	..
Eritrea	28	70	630	5	8
Ethiopia	6	27	850	4	8
Gambia	55	91	540	12	10
Guinea	56	84	740	2	6
Guinea-Bissau	35	62	1 100	..	8
Lesotho	60	85	550	23	30
Liberia	51	85	760	..	..
Madagascar	51	80	550	17	27
Malawi	61	94	1 800	13	31
Mali	41	57	1 200	..	8
Mauritania	57	64	1 000	3	8
Mozambique	48	85	1 000	..	16.5
Niger	16	41	1 600	4	14
Rwanda	31	92	1 400	21	13
Sao Tome and Principe	76	91	..	..	29
Senegal	58	79	690	7	11
Sierra Leone	42	68	2 000	..	4
Somalia	25	32	1 100	..	..
Sudan	87	60	590	10	..
Togo	61	85	570	..	26
Uganda	39	92	880	..	23

Least developed countries	*Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel* 1996/2004	*Percentage of women reporting at least one antenatal visit to a skilled practitioner* 1996/2004	*Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)** 2000	*Percentage of contraceptive use among currently married women aged 15-49, any method* 1990/1995	1996/2004
United Republic of Tanzania	46	94	1 500	10	25
Zambia	43	93	750	15	34
Asia and Pacific					
Afghanistan	14	16	1 900	.	5
Bangladesh	13	49	380	40	58
Bhutan	37	..	420	19	..
Cambodia	32	38	450	13	24
Kiribati	85	88	-	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	27	650	19	32
Maldives	70	81	110	..	42
Myanmar	57	76	360	17	37
Nepal	15	28	740	23	39
Samoa	100	..	130	..	..
Solomon Islands	85	..	130	..	..
Timor-Leste	18	61	660	..	10
Tuvalu	100	..	-	..	..
Vanuatu	88	..	130	..	..
Yemen	27	41	570	7	21
Latin America and the Caribbean					
Haiti	24	79	680	..	28

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible* (New York, 2006), table 8, and United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2005*, wallchart (United Nations publication, sales No. 06.XIII.4).

* International estimates.

Table 4
Universal primary education and gender equality in education

A. Enrolment

Least developed countries	*Enrolment ratio in primary education, net, per 100*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolment ratios in primary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education*	
	1990-1991	*2002-2003*	*1990-1991*	*2002-2003*	*1990-1991*	*2002-2003*	*1990-1991*	*2002-2003*
Africa								
Angola	58	...	0.95	..	..	..	..	0.65
Benin	45	...	0.52	..	0.41	..	0.14	..
Burkina Faso	26	36	0.63	0.74	0.52	1.15	0.29	0.75
Burundi	53	57	0.85	0.84	0.58	0.67	0.36	0.34
Cape Verde	94	99	0.95	0.98	..	0.64	..	0.40
Central African Republic	54	...	0.66	..	0.40	1.11	0.15	1.09
Chad	37	61	0.45	..	0.20	..	..	..
Comoros	57	...	0.73	..	0.65	0.33	..	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	55	...	0.78	..	..	..	..	0.77
Djibouti	31	...	0.72	..	0.66	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	91	...	0.97	..	..	..	0.14	0.80
Eritrea	16	45	0.99	0.86	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	23	47	0.75	0.81	0.75	0.74	0.22	0.15
Gambia	48	79	0.71	..	0.49	0.57	..	0.33
Guinea	26	65	0.51	0.79	0.33	0.68	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	38	...	0.56	..	..	0.48	..	..
Lesotho	73	86	1.24	1.07	1.47	0.83	1.22	0.57
Liberia	..	...	...	..	..	1.53	..	1.48
Madagascar	65	79	1.00	1.01	0.97	..	0.82	0.83
Malawi	50	...	0.92	..	0.46	0.81	0.33	0.41
Mali	20	44	0.61	0.78	0.51	..	0.16	..
Mauritania	35	68	0.74	0.99	0.46	..	0.16	0.27
Mozambique	45	55	0.76	0.91	0.57	0.70	..	0.47
Niger	24	38	0.58	0.69	0.43	0.67	..	..
Rwanda	67	87	0.99	1.04	0.76	..	..	0.46
Sao Tome and Principe	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	47	69	0.74	0.93	0.53	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	41	...	0.73	..	0.57	..	..	..
Somalia	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	43	...	0.75	..	0.79	.	0.88	..
Togo	75	91	0.71	0.84	0.34	..	0.16	..
Uganda	53	..	0.82	..	0.56	0.90	0.39	0.52

Least developed countries	Enrolment ratio in primary education, net, per 100		Ratio of girls to boys enrolment ratios in primary education		Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education		Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education	
	1990-1991	2002-2003	1990-1991	2002-2003	1990-1991	2002-2003	1990-1991	2002-2003
United Republic of Tanzania	50	69	1.01	0.99	0.70	..	..	0.44
Zambia	79	68	0.97	0.99	0.67	0.83	..	..
Asia and Pacific								
Afghanistan	27	...	0.55	..	0.52	..	0.48	..
Bangladesh	71	84	0.87	1.05	0.52	1.11	0.20	0.50
Bhutan	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	67	93	0.83	0.95	0.43	0.78	..	0.45
Kiribati	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	63	85	0.85	0.93	0.62	..	..	..
Maldives	87	92	1.00	1.01	1.02	1.15	..	..
Myanmar	98	84	0.96	1.01	0.98	0.94	..	..
Nepal	..	...	..	..	0.44	..	0.32	0.34
Samoa	..	98	..	..	1.22	1.11	1.00	..
Solomon Islands	83	72	0.86	..	0.63	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	71	94	1.02	..	0.79	..	..	..
Yemen	52	72	0.38	0.70	0.21	..	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	22	...	1.05	..	0.96	..	..	..

Table 4
Universal primary education and gender equality in education (*continued*)

B. Adult literacy

	Adult literacy rate (aged 15+)						
	Percentage literate						*Change in gender difference, percentage 1990 to 2000-2004**
	1990			*2000-2004*			
Least developed countries	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*	
Africa							
Angola	..	..	..	53.8	82.1	66.8	..
Benin	15.5	38.1	26.4	22.6 *	46.4	33.6	1.2
Burkina Faso	..	..	..	8.1 *	18.5	12.8	..
Burundi	26.6	48.4	37	51.9	66.8	58.9	-6.9
Cape Verde	54.3	76.2	63.8	68	85.4	75.7	-4.5
Central African Republic	20.7	47.1	33.2	33.5	64.8	48.6	4.9
Chad	18.8	37	27.7	12.7	40.6	25.5	9.7
Comoros	46.4	61.4	53.8	49.1	63.5	56.2	-0.6
Democratic Republic of the Congo	34.4	61.4	47.5	51.9	79.8	65.3	0.9
Djibouti	39.7	66.8	53	..	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	61.1	85.8	73.3	76.4	92.1	84.2	-9.0
Eritrea	34.8	58.5	46.4	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	19.8	37.3	28.6	33.8	49.2	41.5	-2.1
Gambia	19.7	31.7	25.6	..	..	..	..
Guinea	12.9	42.3	27.2	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	89.5	65.4	78	90.3	73.7	81.4	7.5
Liberia	22.8	55.4	39.2	39.3	72.3	55.9	0.4
Madagascar	49.8	66.4	58	65.2	76.4	70.6	-5.4
Malawi	36.2	68.8	51.8	54	74.9	64.1	-11.7
Mali	..	..	..	11.9	26.7	19	..
Mauritania	23.9	46.3	34.8	31.3	59.5	51.2	5.8
Mozambique	18.4	49.3	33.5	31.4	62.3	46.5	0.0
Niger	5.1	18	11.4	9.4	19.6	14.4	-2.7
Rwanda	44	62.9	53.3	58.8	70.5	64	-7.2
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	18.6	38.2	28.4	29.2	51.1	39.3	2.3
Sierra Leone	..	..	..	20.5	39.8	29.6	..
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	31.5	60	45.8	49.9	69.3	49.9	-9.1

Least developed countries	Adult literacy rate (aged 15+)						Change in gender difference, percentage 1990 to 2000-2004*
	Percentage literate						
	1990			2000-2004			
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	
Togo	28.7	60.5	44.2	38.3	68.5	53	-1.6
Uganda	43.5	69.3	56.1	59.2	78.8	68.9	-6.2
United Republic of Tanzania	51	75.5	62.9	62.2	77.5	69.4	-9.2
Zambia	58.7	78.6	68.2	59.7	76.1	67.9	-3.5
Asia and Pacific							
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Bangladesh	23.7	44.3	34.2	31.4	50.3	41.1	-1.7
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	48.8	77.7	62	73.6	84.7	73.6	-17.8
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	42.8	70.3	56,5	60.9	77	68.7	-11.4
Maldives	94.6	95	94.8	96.4	96.2	96.3	-0.6
Myanmar	74.2	87.4	80.7	86.2	93.7	89.7	-5.7
Nepal	14	47.4	30.4	34.9	62.7	48.6	-5.6
Samoa	97.4	98.5	98	98.4	98.9	98.7	-0.6
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	74	..
Yemen	12.9	55.2	32.7	28.5	69.5	49	-1.3
Latin America and the Caribbean							
Haiti	36.9	42.6	39.7	50	53.8	51.9	-1.9

Sources: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Education for All, *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 — Literacy for Life* (Paris, 2005), tables 12 and 13, and United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators Database, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp, indicator 9 (accessed 1 February 2006). Where national primary data are not available, UNESCO relies on national and international estimates.

* A negative (-) sign indicates a decrease in gender difference; a positive (+) sign indicates an increase.

Table 5
Infant and child health

Least developed countries	*Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)*		*Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)*		*Percentage of 1-year-old children immunized, 2004*		*Percentage of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed*	*Prevalence of moderately or severely underweight children under five*
	1990	*2004*	*1990*	*2004*	*Measles*	*DPT3*	*1996-2004*	*1996-2004*
Africa								
Angola	260	260	154	154	84	59	23	21
Benin	185	152	111	90	64	83	11	31
Burkina Faso	210	192	113	97	78	88	23	40
Burundi	190	190	114	114	84	74	55	47
Cape Verde	60	36	45	27	72	75	..	..
Central African Republic	168	193	102	115	91	40	20	32
Chad	203	200	117	117	80	50	35	26
Comoros	120	70	88	52	57	76	12	46
Democratic Republic of the Congo	205	205	129	129	84	64	15	32
Djibouti	163	126	122	101	64	64	52	40
Equatorial Guinea	170	204	103	122	98	33	57	14
Eritrea	147	82	88	52	55	83	30	24
Ethiopia	204	166	131	110	60	80	24	23
Gambia	154	122	103	89	69	38	50	20
Guinea	240	155	145	101	36	69	..	18
Guinea-Bissau	253	203	153	126	59	80	36	48
Lesotho	120	82	84	61	61	78	1	40
Liberia	235	235	157	157	85	31	44	22
Madagascar	168	123	103	76	59	61	18	25
Malawi	241	175	146	110	54	89	56	13
Mali	250	219	140	121	70	76	..	19
Mauritania	133	125	85	78	78	70	15	18
Mozambique	235	152	158	104	40	72	84	27
Niger	320	259	191	152	56	62	62	45
Rwanda	173	203	103	118	97	89	80	13
Sao Tome and Principe	118	118	75	75	87	99	63	23
Senegal	148	137	90	78	77	87	24	17
Sierra Leone	302	283	175	165	75	61	40	23
Somalia	225	225	133	133	90	30	67	42
Sudan	120	91	74	63	71	55	19	38
Togo	152	140	88	78	77	71	37	25
Uganda	160	138	93	80	73	87	24	31

Least developed countries	*Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)*		*Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)*		*Percentage of 1-year-old children immunized, 2004*		*Percentage of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed*	*Prevalence of moderately or severely underweight children under five*
	1990	*2004*	*1990*	*2004*	*Measles*	*DPT3*	*1996-2004*	*1996-2004*
United Republic of Tanzania	161	126	102	78	64	95	..	39
Zambia	180	182	101	102	91	80	68	48
Asia and Pacific								
Afghanistan	260	257	168	165	80	66	25	33
Bangladesh	149	77	100	56	48	85	10	30
Bhutan	166	80	107	67	35	89	12	45
Cambodia	115	141	80	97	94	85	41	22
Kiribati	88	65	65	49	73	62	16	17
Lao People's Democratic Republic	163	83	120	65	42	45	24	19
Maldives	111	46	79	35	56	96	65	21
Myanmar	130	106	91	76	73	82	31	46
Nepal	145	76	100	59	51	80	38	23
Samoa	50	30	40	25	75	68	9	26
Solomon Islands	63	56	38	34	78	80	2	28
Timor-Leste	172	80	130	64	25	57	..	..
Tuvalu	56	51	40	36	80	98	21	25
Vanuatu	62	40	48	32	74	49	4	27
Yemen	142	111	98	82	70	78	26	17
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	150	117	102	74	64	43	17	24

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible* (New York, 2006), tables 1-3.

Table 6
HIV/AIDS prevalence and prevention

Least developed countries	HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49		HIV prevalence, pregnant women in capital city, aged 15-24	Condom use at last high-risk sex, 1998-2004 (percentage)		Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	Percentage aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, 1998-2004		AIDS orphans (one or both parents died from AIDS) (thousands)	Orphans school attendance ratio to non-orphans
	2001	2003	2001-2003	Women	Men	1996-2004	Women	Men	2003	1998-2004
Africa										
Angola	3.7	3.9	-	-	-	5	-	-	110	90
Benin	1.9	1.9	2.3	19	34	7	8	14	34	..
Burkina Faso	4.2	4.2	2.3	54	67	15	15	23	260	109
Burundi	6.2	6.0	13.6	-	-	1	24	-	200	70
Cape Verde	..	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	..
Central African Republic	13.5	13.5	14.0	-	-	3	5	-	110	91
Chad	4.9	4.8	4.8	-	-	0	5	-	96	96
Comoros	..	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.2	4.2	-	-	-	7	-	-	770	72
Djibouti	2.8	2.9	-	-	-	..	-	-	5	..
Equatorial Guinea	..	-	-	-	-	..	4	-	-	83
Eritrea	2.8	2.7	-	-	-	8	37	-	39	96
Ethiopia	4.1	4.4	11.7	17	30	4	-	-	720	60
Gambia	1.2	1.2	-	-	-	1	15	-	2	85
Guinea	2.8	3.2	-	17	32	10	-	-	35	113
Guinea-Bissau	..	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	103
Lesotho	29.6	28.9	27.8	-	-	6	18	-	100	87
Liberia	5.1	5.9	-	-	-	..	-	-	36	..
Madagascar	1.3	1.7	-	5	12	2	19	16	30	76
Malawi	14.3	14.2	18.0	32	38	5	34	41	500	93
Mali	1.9	1.9	2.2	14	30	4	9	15	75	72
Mauritania	0.5	0.6	-	-	-	10	-	-	2	..
Mozambique	12.1	12.2	14.7	29	33	5	20	33	470	80
Niger	1.1	1.2	-	7	30	0	5	-	24	..
Rwanda	5.1	5.1	11.6	23	55	3	23	20	160	80
Sao Tome and Principe	..	-	-	-	-	0	11	-	-	..
Senegal	0.8	0.8	1.1	-	-	7	13	-	17	74
Sierra Leone	..	-	-	-	-	2	16	-	-	71
Somalia	..	-	-	-	-	..	0	-	-	65
Sudan	1.9	2.3	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	96

Least developed countries	*HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49*		*HIV prevalence, pregnant women in capital city, aged 15-24*	*Condom use at last high-risk sex, 1998-2004 (percentage)*		*Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate*	*Percentage aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, 1998-2004*		*AIDS orphans (one or both parents died from AIDS) (thousands)*	*Orphans school attendance ratio to non-orphans*
	2001	*2003*	*2001-2003*	*Women*	*Men*	*1996-2004*	*Women*	*Men*	*2003*	*1998-2004*
Togo	4.3	4.1	9.1	22	41	6	20	-	54	96
Uganda	5.1	4.1	10.0	44	62	8	28	40	940	95
United Republic of Tanzania	9	8.8	7.0	42	47	11	44	49	980	82
Zambia	16.7	16.5	22.1	33	42	11	31	33	630	92
Asia and Pacific										
Afghanistan	..	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	..
Bangladesh	..	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	..
Bhutan	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Cambodia	2.7	2.6	-	-	-	4	37	-	-	71
Kiribati	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	..
Maldives	..	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	..
Myanmar	1	1.2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	..
Nepal	0.4	0.5	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	..
Samoa	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Solomon Islands	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Timor-Leste	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Tuvalu	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Vanuatu	..	-	-	-	-	..	-	-	-	..
Yemen	..	0.1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	..
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	5.5	5.6	-	19	30	8	15	28	-	87

Sources: UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic*, fourth global report (Geneva, 2004), United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible* (New York, 2006), tables 4 and 8, and United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2005*, wallchart (United Nation publication, sales No. 06.XIII.4).

Table 7
Malaria and tuberculosis prevalence, mortality, prevention and treatment

	Reported malaria cases per 1,000 population		Number of reported deaths from malaria	Percentage of children under 5 years		Estimated prevalence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population		Estimated tuberculosis deaths per 100,000 population		DOTS*	
				Sleeping under treated net	With fever receiving anti-malaria drugs					Proportion of TB cases detected, per cent	Proportion of detected cases cured, per cent
Least developed countries	*1990*	*2000/2003*	*2000/2003*	*1999/2004*	*1999/2004*	*1990*	*2003*	*1990*	*2003*	*2003*	*2002*
Africa											
Angola	26.1	106.9	11 344	2	63	453	272	59	25	102	74
Benin	20.0	122.0	670	7	60	171	144	21	15	50	80
Burkina Faso	55.7	114.9	4 417	2	50	285	315	46	45	12	64
Burundi	16.6	274.0	330	1	31	234	558	36	92	29	79
Cape Verde	0.2	0.3	..	..	..	366	329	42	40	41	..
Central African Republic	59.3	24.7	..	2	69	225	548	33	113	31	..
Chad	24.7	47.7	1 001	1	32	397	456	51	66	24	72
Comoros	..	5.1	16	9	63	193	103	22	8	23	96
Democratic Republic of the Congo		83.1	16 498	1	45	263	564	37	81	44	78
Djibouti	6.1	7.2	..	..	..	1 338	1 020	160	115	63	82
Equatorial Guinea	72.3	31.3	..	1	49	341	374	44	63	..	..
Eritrea	..	17.4	78	4	4	493	444	59	62	42	82
Ethiopia	..	8.0	..	..	3	269	533	33	79	47	76
Gambia	237.7	100.5	..	15	55	432	341	50	41	58	74
Guinea	3.6	109.5	441	4	56	264	407	32	54	33	72
Guinea-Bissau	80.5	134.6	780	7	58	364	312	43	43	56	48
Lesotho	..	..	..	..	..	416	588	47	109	91	52
Liberia	..	301.5	..	..	..	430	507	58	78	..	..
Madagascar	..	121.5	759	..	34	434	331	50	41	51	74
Malawi	409.3	240.4	6 993	3	27	523	551	78	107	48	72
Mali	27.5	62.2	1 309	8	38	655	593	81	75	12	50
Mauritania	13.3	59.6	100	..	..	531	668	61	77	..	..
Mozambique	..	269.7	3 569	..	15	332	636	44	129	33	78
Niger	152.0	59.1	1 096	6	48	290	276	34	33	38	..
Rwanda	189.2	102.1	..	5	13	251	664	40	104	19	58
Sao Tome and Principe	..	393.5	..	..	..	309	256	36	28	..	..
Senegal	..	119.3	1 337	2	36	452	432	53	50	38	66
Sierra Leone	..	95.4	..	2	61	497	809	58	102	25	81
Somalia	..	2.4	10	0	19	751	755	89	126	23	89
Sudan	301.2	91.8	2 479	0	50	404	364	47	62	34	78

Least developed countries	Reported malaria cases per 1,000 population		Number of reported deaths from malaria	Percentage of children under 5 years		Estimated prevalence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population		Estimated tuberculosis deaths per 100,000 population		DOTS*	
				Sleeping under treated net	With fever receiving anti-malaria drugs					Proportion of TB cases detected, per cent	Proportion of detected cases cured, per cent
	1990	2000/2003	2000/2003	1999/2004	1999/2004	1990	2003	1990	2003	2003	2002
Togo	234.6	92.2	791	8	47	799	696	94	98	10	68
Uganda	..	477.9	8 450	0	..	270	652	55	96	39	60
United Republic of Tanzania		289.7	14 156	10	58	371	524	53	86	45	80
Zambia	235.8	..	5 763	7	52	492	638	104	122	76	83
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan	23.0	24.7	..	..	..	693	671	75	93	17	87
Bangladesh	0.5	0.4	574	..	..	741	490	65	57	24	84
Bhutan	5.6	1.7	15	..	..	626	194	55	21	41	86
Cambodia	12.7	5.0	492	..	..	1 584	762	123	95	39	92
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	392	60	30	4	540	94
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	5.3	3.3	187	18	9	497	327	37	26	31	78
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	542	39	48	2	96	95
Myanmar	24.4	14.5	2 476	..	..	514	187	45	25	90	81
Nepal	1.2	0.4	3	..	..	636	318	56	29	58	86
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	145	44	11	5	51	84
Solomon Islands	..	189.9	71	..	..	392	60	30	4	103	90
Timor-Leste	..	40.9	8	2	60	1 674	754	147	96	64	81
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	145	59	11	6	954	..
Vanuatu	192.7	71.9	..	..	..	392	71	30	8	82	79
Yemen	1.0	13.2	29	..	..	286	151	31	12	56	82
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	0.7	1.2	16	..	12	647	415	89	71	52	78

Sources: United Nations Children's Organization and World Health Organization, *World Malaria Report 2005* (Geneva, 2005); World Health Organization, *Global tuberculosis control — surveillance, planning, financing: 2005 and 2006* (Geneva, 2005 and 2006); and United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible* (New York, 2006), table 3.

* Internationally recommended TB control strategy.

Table 8
Improved water and sanitation

Least developed countries	Percentage of population urban		Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation				Percentage of population with access to improved drinking water			
			Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	1990	2005	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004
Africa										
Angola	26.1	37.2	62	56	19	16	11	70	40	40
Benin	34.5	46.1	31	58	1	12	71	79	54	60
Burkina Faso	13.6	18.6	47	45	8	5	63	82	35	44
Burundi	6.3	10.6	42	47	44	35	96	90	67	78
Cape Verde	44.1	57.6	..	61	..	19	..	86	..	73
Central African Republic	37.5	43.8	32	47	18	12	70	93	35	61
Chad	21.1	25.8	27	30	1	0	45	40	13	32
Comoros	27.9	36.3	41	38	16	15	99	90	85	96
Democratic Republic of the Congo	27.9	32.7	56	43	3	23	92	83	24	29
Djibouti	75.3	84.6	55	55	27	27	82	82	67	67
Equatorial Guinea	34.5	50.0	..	60	..	46	..	45	..	42
Eritrea	15.8	20.8	46	34	0	3	60	72	36	54
Ethiopia	12.7	16.2	14	19	2	4	80	81	16	11
Gambia	24.9	26.1	..	72	..	46	95	95	..	77
Guinea	25.3	36.5	27	25	13	6	70	78	32	38
Guinea-Bissau	23.8	35.6	..	57	..	23	..	79	..	49
Lesotho	17.2	18.2	61	61	32	32	..	88	..	74
Liberia	42.0	47.9	59	49	24	7	85	72	34	52
Madagascar	23.6	27.0	25	49	8	27	82	75	27	34
Malawi	11.6	17.2	52	66	34	42	90	96	34	62
Mali	23.8	33.7	50	59	32	38	50	76	29	35
Mauritania	44.0	64.3	31	64	26	9	19	63	57	45
Mozambique	21.1	38.0	..	51	14	14	..	76	..	24
Niger	16.1	23.3	35	43	2	4	62	80	35	36
Rwanda	5.3	21.8	49	56	36	38	88	92	57	69
Sao Tome and Principe	36.5	37.9	..	32	..	20	..	89	..	73
Senegal	40.0	51.0	52	70	23	34	90	90	50	54
Sierra Leone	30.0	40.2	..	53	..	30	..	75	..	46
Somalia	29.4	35.9	..	47	..	14	..	32	..	27
Sudan	26.6	40.8	53	50	26	24	85	78	57	64
Togo	40.9	57.0	83	71	74	15	92	80	89	36
Uganda	21.7	37.5	51	53	45	39	79	87	27	52

Least developed countries	Percentage of population urban		Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation				Percentage of population with access to improved drinking water			
			Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	1990	2005	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004	1990	2002-2004
United Republic of Tanzania	7.8	7.8	..	54	..	41	..	92	..	62
Zambia	39.4	36.5	..	68	..	32	86	90	27	36
Asia and Pacific										
Afghanistan	18.2	24.3	..	16	5	5	..	19	..	11
Bangladesh	19.8	25.0	71	75	11	39	83	82	68	72
Bhutan	5.5	9.1	..	65	..	70	..	86	..	60
Cambodia	12.6	19.7	..	53	..	8	..	58	..	29
Kiribati	34.6	50.2	33	59	21	22	76	77	33	53
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15.4	21.6	..	61	..	14	..	66	..	38
Maldives	25.9	29.7	100	100	..	42	100	99	99	78
Myanmar	24.8	30.6	39	96	15	63	73	95	40	74
Nepal	8.9	15.8	62	68	7	20	94	93	67	82
Samoa	21.5	22.5	100	100	98	100	99	91	89	88
Solomon Islands	13.7	17.1	98	98	..	18	..	94	..	65
Timor-Leste	28.5	36.3	71	65	24	30	81	73	37	51
Tuvalu	11.2	12.4	54	92	41	83	79	94	40	92
Vanuatu	18.5	23.7	59	78	11	42	93	85	53	52
Yemen	21.3	26.3	64	76	26	14	74	74	68	68
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	29.5	38.8	27	52	11	23	77	91	43	59

Source: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization, *Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target — A Mid-term Assessment of Progress* (New York, 2004); United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*, print and CD-ROM (United Nations publication, sales No. 05.XIII.5).

Table 9
Communications

Least developed countries	*Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population*		*Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population*				*Internet users per 100 population*
			Main lines		*Cellular*	*Total*	
	1990	*2004*	*1990*	*2003-2004*	*2003-2004*	*2003-2004*	*2004*
Africa							
Angola	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	6.7	7.4	1.2
Benin	2.9	2.2	0.3	1.1	3.4	4.4	1.5
Burkina Faso	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.6	3.0	3.6	0.4
Burundi	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.2	0.4
Cape Verde	15.1	10.9	2.4	15.6	13.9	29.5	5.3
Central African Republic	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.8	0.2
Chad	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.2	1.4	1.5	0.7
Comoros	6.1	3.7	0.8	1.7	0.3	1.9	1.0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.9	1.9	..
Djibouti	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.6	3.4	5.1	1.3
Equatorial Guinea	5.9	4.1	0.4	1.8	11.0	12.7	1.0
Eritrea	1.1	1.6	..	0.9	0.5	1.4	1.2
Ethiopia	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.2
Gambia	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.7	12.0	14.6	3.4
Guinea	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.8	5.8
Guinea-Bissau	2.3	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.9	2.0
Lesotho	8.4	8.5	0.7	2.1	8.8	10.9	2.4
Liberia	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.4	1.6	
Madagascar	10.5	4.2	0.3	0.4	1.9	2.2	0.5
Malawi	3.1	2.6	0.3	0.8	1.8	2.6	0.4
Mali	1.3	0.9	0.1	0.7	3.6	4.3	0.5
Mauritania	2.7	0.9	0.3	1.4	17.5	18.9	0.5
Mozambique	2.8	1.5	0.3	0.4	3.7	4.2	0.7
Niger	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.2
Rwanda	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.6	1.9	0.5
Sao Tome and Principe	8.0	6.5	1.9	4.6	3.2	7.8	12.2
Senegal	1.5	1.2	0.6	2.2	9.9	12.2	4.7
Sierra Leone	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	2.3	2.7	0.2
Somalia	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7	4.2	5.8	1.7
Sudan	2.1	0.6	0.3	3.0	3.0	6.0	3.3
Togo	1.2	0.9	0.3	1.2	4.4	5.6	4.4
Uganda	1.6	1.2	0.2	0.3	4.4	4.6	0.8

Least developed countries	*Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population*		*Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population*				*Internet users per 100 population*
			Main lines		*Cellular*	*Total*	
	1990	*2004*	*1990*	*2003-2004*	*2003-2004*	*2003-2004*	*2004*
United Republic of Tanzania	1.9	1.1	0.3	0.4	4.4	4.8	0.9
Zambia	5.0	1.6	0.8	0.8	2.8	3.5	2.1
Asia and Oceania							
Afghanistan	1.8	1.4	0.2	0.2	2.4	2.6	0.1
Bangladesh	7.0	7.2	0.2	0.6	2.9	3.4	0.2
Bhutan	5.8	5.2	0.4	1.3	0.8	2.0	0.9
Cambodia	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.3	3.5	3.8	0.3
Kiribati	31.8	25.7	1.7	4.0	0.6	4.6	2.4
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.9	4.0	0.2	1.3	3.5	4.8	0.4
Maldives	88.8	67.2	2.9	9.6	34.5	44.1	5.8
Myanmar	2.7	2.7	0.2	0.8	0.2	1.0	0.1
Nepal	11.6	15.1	0.3	1.6	0.7	2.3	0.7
Samoa	22.8	19.6	2.6	7.3	5.8	13.1	3.3
Solomon Islands	33.1	5.8	1.5	1.3	0.3	1.6	0.6
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	92.4	86.6	1.3	7.0	0.0	7.0	30.0
Vanuatu	3.6	15.9	1.8	3.1	4.8	8.0	3.5
Yemen	2.8	1.5	1.1	3.9	5.2	9.0	0.9
Latin America and the Caribbean							
Haiti	1.7	0.7	0.7	1.7	4.7	6.4	5.9

Sources: Universal Postal Union, Postal statistics database, http://www.upu.org/pls/ap/ssp_report.main?p_language=AN&p_choice=BROWSE (Geneva, accessed 15 March 2006); International Telecommunication Union, ICT Statistics, http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/ (accessed 15 February 2006).

Table 10
Transportation facilities

	Roads			*Railways*		*Air transport*			
	Total road network (kms)		*Paved roads (percentage)*	*Total route (kms)*	*Rail freight (ton-kms)*	*Aircraft departures (thousands)*		*Air freight (ton-kms)*	
Least developed countries	*1990*	*1999/2003*	*1999/2003*	*2000/2004*	*2000/2004*	*1990*	*2004*	*1990*	*2004*
Africa									
Angola	..	51 429	10.4	2 761	..	7	5	40	64
Benin	6 787	6 787	20.0	438	86	1	1	18	7
Burkina Faso	9 840	12 506	16.0	622	..	2	1	18	..
Burundi	..	14 480	7.1	..	..	1	..		
Cape Verde	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	23 648	23 810	..	..	..	4	1	18	7
Chad	29 700	33 400	0.8	..	..	1	1	18	7
Comoros	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	..	157 000	..	4 499	491	5	5	57	7
Djibouti	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	3 560	4 010	21.8	306	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	27 901	33 856	12.9	..	..	21	30	67	117
Gambia, The	2 386	3 742	19.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea	29 620	44 348	9.8	837	..	1	..		
Guinea-Bissau	4 100	4 400	10.3	..	..	1	..		..
Lesotho	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	9 320	10 600	6.2	490	..	2	..		
Madagascar	34 800	49 827	11.6	883	12	17	18	30	13
Malawi	10 204	28 400	18.5	710	88	4	6	1	1
Mali	13 400	15 100	12.1	733	189	..	1	..	7
Mauritania	7 300	7 660	11.3	717	..	4	2	18	..
Mozambique	27 000	30 400	18.7	2 072	808	6	9	9	5
Niger	11 696	10 100	7.9	..	..	1	1	18	7
Rwanda	13 173	12 000	8.3	..	..	1	..		..
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	13 800	13 576	29.3	906	371	4	6	18	..
Sierra Leone	11 300	11 300	8.0	..	..	1		2	8
Somalia	20 800	22 100	11.8	..	..	2	..	9	..
Sudan	10 420	11 900	36.3	5 478	889	9	8	13	41
Togo	7 390	7 520	31.6	568	..	1	1	18	7
Uganda	..	70 746	23.0	259	218	2		22	27

Least developed countries	Roads			Railways		Air transport			
	Total road network (kms)		Paved roads (percentage)	Total route (kms)	Rail freight (ton-kms)	Aircraft departures (thousands)		Air freight (ton-kms)	
	1990	1999/2003	1999/2003	2000/2004	2000/2004	1990	2004	1990	2004
United Republic of Tanzania	55 900	78 891	8.6	2 600	1 351	8	6	1	2
Zambia	35 300	91 440	22.0	1 273	554	7	5	30	..
Asia and Pacific									
Afghanistan	21 000	34 789	23.7	..	..	5	3	9	8
Bangladesh	188 000	239 226	9.5	2 745	..	13	7	70	180
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	35 800	12 323	16.2	650	92	..	4	..	4
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 971	32 620	14.1	..	..	3	9	1	2
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	25 000	27 966	78.0	..	..	14	25	1	3
Nepal	6 840	15 905	53.9	59	..	26	6	11	7
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	51 119	67 000	11.5	..	..	14	16	12	60
Latin America and the Caribbean									
Haiti	3 695	4 160	24.3	..	..	1	..	4	..

Source: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2006* (Washington, D.C., in press), table 5.8, compiled from data of the International Road Federation, the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Table 11
Official development assistance (ODA)

Country	*ODA, net to LDCs, million US dollars*			*ODA, net to LDCs, as percentage of total*			*ODA, net to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income*			*ODA for trade capacity-building as percentage of total ODA*	
	1990	*2000*	*2004*	*1990*	*2000*	*2004*	*1990*	*2000*	*2004*	*2001*	*2004*
Australia	171	293	350	17.9	29.7	24.0	0.34	0.27	0.25	2.1	1.2
Austria	106	113	168	63.1	25.7	24.8	0.11	0.23	0.23	..	1.3
Belgium	367	221	645	41.3	27.0	44.1	0.46	0.36	0.41	2.4	7.4
Canada	740	308	702	30.0	17.7	27.0	0.44	0.25	0.27	9.3	3.0
Denmark	462	537	735	39.4	32.3	36.1	0.94	1.06	0.85	0.6	0.3
Finland	317	112	153	37.5	30.2	23.3	0.65	0.31	0.35	1.0	..
France	2 286	1 144	3 169	33.3	27.9	37.4	0.60	0.30	0.41	0.4	1.6
Germany	1 769	1 212	2 312	28.0	24.1	30.7	0.42	0.27	0.28	2.6	1.6
Greece	..	19	65	..	8.4	14.0	..	0.20	0.23	..	0.2
Ireland	21	114	322	36.7	48.7	53.0	0.16	0.29	0.39	0.3	0.2
Italy	1 382	389	788	40.7	28.3	32.0	0.31	0.13	0.15	1.4	1.4
Japan	1 753	2 159	1 684	19.4	16.0	18.9	0.31	0.28	0.19	0.6	0.4
Luxembourg	10	46	87	39.4	37.4	36.9	0.21	0.71	0.83	..	..
Netherlands	834	794	1 453	33.0	25.3	34.6	0.92	0.84	0.73	2.7	3.2
New Zealand	18	29	65	18.9	25.6	30.6	0.23	0.25	0.23	10.8	10.7
Norway	532	427	837	44.2	33.8	38.1	1.17	0.76	0.87	4.1	2.8
Portugal	100	171	878	70.3	63.2	85.2	0.24	0.26	0.63	0.7	1.1
Spain	194	144	424	20.1	12.1	17.4	0.20	0.22	0.24	0.1	..
Sweden	775	532	762	38.7	29.6	28.0	0.91	0.80	0.78	0.9	0.8
Switzerland	325	270	399	43.3	30.3	25.8	0.32	0.34	0.41	6.3	8.2
United Kingdom	834	1 426	2 988	31.7	31.7	37.9	0.27	0.32	0.36	4.8	1.4
United States	2 199	1 989	4 504	21.6	20.0	22.9	0.21	0.10	0.17	6.7	3.4

Source: Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *International Development Statistics CD-ROM* (Paris, 2006).

Table 12
World Bank/IMF debt relief under the HIPC Initiative, and public and publicly guaranteed debt service

	LDCs in HIPC Initiative and debt relief status with World Bank and IMF, March 2006									*Debt service as percentage of LDC exports of goods, services and income abroad*	
			World Bank ($ million)		*IMF ($ million)*		*World Bank/IMF total*				
Least developed countries	*To be considered*	*Completion point*	*Committed*	*Delivered*	*Committed*	*Delivered*	*Committed*	*Delivered*	*Percentage delivered*	*1990*	*2004*
Africa											
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.1	14.8
Benin	..	Mar-03	124.3	40.7	18.4	20.1	142.7	60.8	42.6	8.2	7.6
Burkina Faso	..	Apr-02	236.7	46.4	27.7	29.7	264.4	76.1	28.8	6.8	..
Burundi	..	floating	782.5	3.7	19.3	0.1	801.8	3.8	0.5	43.4	66
Cape Verde	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	X	..	..	..	..	..			..	13.2	..
Chad	..	floating	106.7	26	14.3	8.6	121	34.6	28.6	4.4	..
Comoros	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	..	floating	1031.2	82.3	228.3	3.4	1259.5	85.7	6.8	..	..
Djibouti	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	..	Apr-04	1278.4	146.7	45.1	46.7	1323.5	193.4	14.6	39	5.3
Gambia	..	floating	31.8	9.1	1.8	0.1	33.6	9.2	27.4	22.2	..
Guinea	..	floating	233.6	60.9	24.2	5.2	257.8	66.1	25.6	20	19.9
Guinea-Bissau	..	floating	179.6	26.2	9.2	0.5	188.8	26.7	14.1	31	16.1
Lesotho	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.2	4.5
Liberia	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	..	Oct-04	444.4	83.9	14.7	16.4	459.1	100.3	21.8	45.5	6
Malawi	..	floating	588.5	104.2	23.1	11.6	611.6	115.8	18.9	29.3	..
Mali	..	Mar-03	213.2	61.2	34.7	38.5	247.9	99.7	40.2	12.3	5.8
Mauritania	..	Jun-02	172.8	36.3	34.8	38.4	207.6	74.7	36.0	29.8	..
Mozambique	..	Sep-01	80.1	41.1	13.7	14.8	93.8	55.9	59.6	26.2	4.5
Niger	..	Apr-04	408.7	58.9	31.2	34	439.9	92.9	21.1	17.4	7.5
Rwanda	..	Apr-05	709	74.4	46.8	50.6	755.8	125	16.5	14.2	11.2
Sao Tome and Principe	..	floating	44.9	6.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	..	Apr-04	163.9	72.8	33.8	38.4	197.7	111.2	56.2	20	10.3
Sierra Leone	..	floating	229.9	29.9	98.5	66	328.4	95.9	29.2	10	10.9
Somalia	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.7	6
Togo	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9	2

Least developed countries	LDCs in HIPC Initiative and debt relief status with World Bank and IMF, March 2006									Debt service as percentage of LDC exports of goods, services and income abroad	
			World Bank ($ million)		IMF ($ million)		World Bank/IMF total				
	To be considered	Completion point	Committed	Delivered	Committed	Delivered	Committed	Delivered	Percentage delivered	1990	2004
Uganda	..	May-00	629.1	109.5	68.1	70.2	697.2	179.7	25.8	81.4	6.9
United Republic of Tanzania	..	Nov-01	1157.1	253.8	89	96.4	1246.1	350.2	28.1	32.9	5.3
Zambia	..	Apr-05	885.2	132.2	468.8	508.3	1354	640.5	47.3	14.7	..
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.8	5.2
Bhutan	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	0.8
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.7	..
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.4	3.8
Nepal	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.7	5.5
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6	3.5
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	X	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	4

Sources: International Monetary Fund and International Development Association, Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative — Statistical Update (Washington, D.C., 21 March 2006), tables 5A and 6A, available at http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/032106.pdf, and World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2006* (Washington, D.C., in press).

Table 13
Development of statistical services

Least developed countries	*Census since 1990*	*Current UNFPA support*	*Household surveys since 1995*	*MDG report*	*MDG indicators available of 47**		*National accounts*		*2000 or later trade statistics*	*Agricultural census*	*World Bank capacity support*
					1 data pt.	*2+ data pts.*	*Minimum dataset*	*Latest year sent to United Nations by country*			
Africa											
Angola	..	..	4	X	38	26	..	..	..	..	X
Benin	2002	..	4	X	39	27	..	2005	X	..	..
Burkina Faso	1996	..	9	X	43	32	X	1998	X	X	X
Burundi	2007	X	2	X	44	28	..	..	X	..	X
Cape Verde	2000	..	4	X	29	14	..	2005	X	..	X
Central African Republic	2005	X	2	X	42	27	..	.	X	..	X
Chad	1993	X	8	X	42	28	..	2001	..	..	X
Comoros	2003	..	4	X	35	22	..	..	X	..	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	..	..	..	..	30	19	..	..	..	..	..
Djibouti	..	..	2	X	28	22	..	..	..	X	..
Equatorial Guinea	2002	..	..	..	30	15	..	..	..	..	X
Eritrea	..	..	3	..	35	28	..	..	X	..	..
Ethiopia	1994	..	12	X	44	33	..	..	X	X	..
Gambia	2003	..	2	X	40	21	..	..	X	X	X
Guinea	1996	..	5	X	37	27	..	..	X	X	..
Guinea-Bissau	1991	..	2	X	36	13	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	2001	..	4	..	40	29	X	2001	X	X	X
Liberia	..	..	1	X	27	20	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	1993	..	11	X	42	33	..	..	X	..	X
Malawi	1998	..	8	X	46	34	..	..	X	..	X
Mali	1998	..	12	X	44	26	..	..	X	X	..
Mauritania	2000	..	6	X	37	26	..	..	X	X	..
Mozambique	1997	..	8	X	40	25	X	2005	X	X	X
Niger	2001	..	9	X	47	30	X	2004	X	..	..
Rwanda	2003	X	7	X	43	28	..	2004	X	..	X
Sao Tome and Principe	2001	..	1	X	28	11	..	..	X	..	..
Senegal	2002	..	9	X	44	33	..	..	X	X	X
Sierra Leone	2004	..	2	X	33	16	..	..	X	..	X
Somalia	..	..	1	..	24	10	..	.	..	..	..
Sudan	1993	X	2	X	38	26	..	2000	X	..	..

Least developed countries	Census since 1990	Current UNFPA support	Household surveys since 1995	MDG report	MDG indicators available of 47*		National accounts		2000 or later trade statistics	Agricultural census	World Bank capacity support
					1 data pt.	2+ data pts.	Minimum dataset	Latest year sent to United Nations by country			
Togo	2002	..	3	X	42	32	..	..	X	X	..
Uganda	2002	..	12	X	37	23	..	2000	X	..	X
United Republic of Tanzania	2002	..	8	X	44	31	..	2005	X	X	X
Zambia	2002	..	9	X	45	34	..	2004	X	..	X
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan	..	..	3	X	24	12	..	2005	..	..	..
Bangladesh	2001	..	13	X	40	34	..	2005	X	X	..
Bhutan	..	..	1	X	25	14	..	1998	..	X	..
Cambodia	1998	..	6	X	39	24	..	2003	X	..	X
Kiribati	2000	..	..	R	19	18	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1995	..	6	X	40	29	..	2003	..	X	..
Maldives	1995	..	3	X	29	22	..	2004	X	..	..
Myanmar	2004	..	3	X	35	30	..	1998	..	..	..
Nepal	2001	..	9	X	41	32	..	2005	X	..	X
Samoa	1991	..	..	R	23	22	..	..	X	X	..
Solomon Islands	1999	..	..	R	21	14	..	2005	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	2004	..	4	X	20	8	..	2003	..	..	..
Tuvalu	2002	..	..	R	15	13	..	2004	X	..	..
Vanuatu	1999	..	..	R	22	18	..	2004	X	..	..
Yemen	2004	..	2	X	37	29	..	2005	X	..	X
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	2003	X	..	..	35	20	..	1998	..	..	..

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division, *Population and Vital Statistics Report*, Series A, table 2 (United Nations publication, available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/serieSa2.htm); programme information provided by the United Nations Population Fund, March 2006; World Bank, "Key Development Data and Statistics, Country Profiles", www.worldbank.org (accessed 3 March 2006); United Nations Statistics Division, "Assessment of countries' capacity to monitor MDG indicators: Table A, B and C", background document (E/CN.3/2006/14) for the 37th session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York 7-10 March 2006 (available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2006.htm); and programme information of the Statistics Division on trade statistics.

Notes: "R" refers to inclusion of this country in *Pacific Islands Regional Millennium Development Goals Report 2004*, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, 2004.

* Does not include indicators not applicable to developing countries, or for which significant new information has become available since the time the table was prepared.

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Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Annex II, table 11

Replace the existing table with the table below.

* A/61/50 and Corr.1.
** E/2006/100.

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Table 11
Official development assistance

Country	*ODA, net to LDCs, in millions of United States dollars*			*ODA, net to LDCs, as percentage of total*			*ODA, net to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income*			*ODA for trade capacity-building, as percentage of total ODA*	
	1990	*2000*	*2004*	*1990*	*2000*	*2004*	*1990*	*2000*	*2004*	*2001*	*2004*
Australia	171	293	350	17.9	29.7	24.0	0.06	0.08	0.06	2.1	1.2
Austria	106	113	168	63.1	25.7	24.8	0.07	0.06	0.06	..	1.3
Belgium	367	221	645	41.3	27.0	44.1	0.19	0.10	0.18	2.4	7.4
Canada	740	308	702	30.0	17.7	27.0	0.13	0.05	0.07	9.3	3.0
Denmark	462	537	735	39.4	32.3	36.1	0.37	0.34	0.31	0.6	0.3
Finland	317	112	153	37.5	30.2	23.3	0.24	0.09	0.08	1.0	..
France	2 286	1 144	3 169	33.3	27.9	37.4	0.19	0.09	0.15	0.4	1.6
Germany	1 769	1 212	2 312	28.0	24.1	30.7	0.12	0.07	0.08	2.6	1.6
Greece	..	19	65	..	8.4	14.0	..	0.02	0.03	..	0.2
Ireland	21	114	322	36.7	48.7	53.0	0.06	0.14	0.21	0.3	0.2
Italy	1 382	389	788	40.7	28.3	32.0	0.13	0.04	0.05	1.4	1.4
Japan	1 753	2 159	1 684	19.4	16.0	18.9	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.6	0.4
Luxembourg	10	46	87	39.4	37.4	36.9	0.08	0.27	0.31	..	..
Netherlands	834	794	1 453	33.0	25.3	34.6	0.30	0.21	0.25	2.7	3.2
New Zealand	18	29	65	18.9	25.6	30.6	0.04	0.07	0.07	10.8	10.7
Norway	532	427	837	44.2	33.8	38.1	0.52	0.26	0.33	4.1	2.8
Portugal	100	171	878	70.3	63.2	85.2	0.17	0.16	0.53	0.7	1.1
Spain	194	144	424	20.1	12.1	17.4	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.1	..
Sweden	775	532	762	38.7	29.6	28.0	0.35	0.24	0.22	0.9	0.8
Switzerland	325	270	399	43.3	30.3	25.8	0.14	0.10	0.11	6.3	8.2
United Kingdom	834	1 426	2 988	31.7	31.7	37.9	0.09	0.10	0.14	4.8	1.4
United States	2 199	1 989	4 504	21.6	20.0	22.9	0.04	0.02	0.04	6.7	3.4

Source: Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *International Development Statistics CD-ROM* (Paris, 2006).